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Lebanese President Elias Hrawi conferred with President Hafez Assad Sunday on the possibility of Lebanon rejoining peace negotiations with Israel that have been deadlocked for 10 months. Mr. Hrawi arrived in Damascus Sunday morning, two days after he met with Robert Pel dreau, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near East affairs, who briefed him and other Lebanese leaders on Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talks in Syria and Israel last week.

Arafat arrives in Finland

HELSINKI (R) - PLO leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Helsinki Sunday after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo and holding talks with co-laureates Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Mr. Arafat, who last visited Finland in late 1993, was expected to discuss the peace process and related issues with Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari and Prime Minister Esko before going on to Stockholm Monday morning. "I can't be here in this area to receive the Nobel Prize without visiting this friendly country who supported our cause from the beginning by all means and on all levels," Mr. Arafat said at Helsinki airport. Meeting in Oslo after the prize ceremony. Mr. Arafat, Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres made no breakthrough in talks on the terms for much-delayed Palestinian elections — the next stage in the fragile process. The two sides agreed to intensify high and middle-level talks on redeployment of Israeli troops away from Palestinian population centres on the West Bank before elections are held. Israel is worried about redeploying its troops unless the PLO can ensure security in areas where there are many Jewish settlements.



AMMAN MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1994, RAJAB 9, 1415

Delors says no to race for presidency

PARIS (R) — Outgoing European Commission President Jacques Delors, ending weeks of speculation, announced in a television interview Sunday that he was taking himself out of the race for the French presidency in 1995. "I will not doubt be criticised but hope the French people will understand." Mr. Delors said during a television interview. He said a campaign would oblige him to make promises he would not be able to fulfill because he would have to work with a conservative parliament. Leading all other contenders in the polls four and a half months ahead of the first round of voting in France's presidential election, Mr. Delors had kept voters and political bosses in a furious guessing game about his plans. Socialist leaders believed he was their only hope of keeping the presidency when Francois Mitterrand steps down in May, ending 14 years as head of state. Meanwhile a French ecological group Sunday nominated its leader Brice Lalonde, as an official candidate for presidential elections next year, officials said. But a third of the 258 delegates of the Ecological Generation left the meeting protesting that the group should throw its weight behind outgoing European Commission President Jacques Delors.

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

MPs form new bloc AMMAN (Petra) — A new

Number 5791

parliamentary bloc was formed Saturday under the name of the Independent National Action Front. The bloc's spokesman, deputy Taha Al Habahbeh, said the forming of the bloc aimed to activate parliamentary work and to carry out the suitable role in serving national interests. The bloc includes deputies Abdul Baqi Jammo, Mansonr Ben Tarif, Mr. Habahbeh, Mifleh Al Lawzi, Ahmad Al Qudah, Abdul Majid Al Aqtash, Misleh Al Ruheimi, Abdul Hadi Al Majali, Farah Al Rabadi. Hashem Al Dabbas, Abdul Majid Al Azzam, Khaled Abdul Nabi, Mohammad Al Huneiti, Hatem Eghzawi,

Volume 19

Hamas leader urges release of

Saoud

Hani Hijazin and Rateb A

soldier's body OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The mother of an Israeli kidnapped and killed by Islamic militants visited the movement's spiritual leader in prison Sunday and he urged followers to release the body. "Enough already, I'm a mother and I want my son back," Gilbert Saadon said weeping on Israel television after the unusual meeting with Sheikh Ahmad Yassin. Mr. Yassin, 58, a quadriplegic, heads the militant . Hamas movement that wages attacks against the 1993 Israel-PLO accord. He has served a life sentence since 1989 for ordering the slayings of Palestinians accused of collaborating with Israel. Hamas has demanded Mr. Yassin's release as a condition forhanding over the body of Ilan Stadon, a soldier kidnapped ы'May 1989, at the height of the Palestinian uprising. But Amir Avrahami, an attorney for the Saadons, said that Mr. Yassin dictated a letter Sunday urging Hamas to "reveal the place of burial of Ilan Saadon, without anything in exchange." Mr. Avrahami said he hoped Mr. Yassin's letter would lead to the body's return within two weeks. Leaders of the PLOrun autonomy government in

do so only once Mr. Saadon's body was recovered. Kinkel considers quitting, party

Sources say

the Gaza Strip have asked for

Mr. Yassin's release as a ges-

ture that could help them

reign in Islamic militants.

Israel has suggested it would

GERA, Germany (R) — German Foreign Minister Klans Kinkel is considering resigning as leader of the Liberal Free Democrats (TP), junior partners in Lancellor Heimut Kohi's government, party sources said Sunday. There was no confirmation and the sources added that Mr. Kinkel, who faced a barrage of criticism at a party congress on the eastern city of Gera, had not yet made up his mind. The sources said Mr. Kinkel would make up his mind during the course of the evening. Mr. Kinkel was booed and jeered Sunday as the FDP met to debate devas-

at the two-day congress. Lebanese president in Syria for talks with

tating election losses and find

a new vote-winning identity

DAMASCUS (AP) —

Jordan, Israel open embassies

By Natasha Bukhari in Amman and agency dispatches

JORDAN AND ISRAEL, which ended 46 years of war between them with the Oct. 26 peace treaty, yesterday opened embassies in Amman and Tel Aviv two weeks after establishing diplomatic rela-

tions. The two countries opened their embassies, which will operate at the charge d'affaires level until ambassadors are exchanged, with low-key flag raising ceremonies. Neither country has found a permanent site to house their missions so they are operating in hotel suites for the time

The Jordanian and Israeli missions were inaugurated by foreign ministry officials from each country. Jordan's officer Omar Rifai and Israel's Yoav Biran, said in their statements the ceremonies were an important step towards establishing peace and neighbourly relations for the be-

nefit of both people. The inauguration comlishing diplomatic relations as stipulated in article 5 of the peace treaty. Both missions

will begin work on Monday. In Amman, the Foreign Ministry Deputy Director Biran unveiled a plaque reading "Embassy of Israel" in-English, Hebrew and Arabic, outside the sixth floor suite of a large hotel in Shmeisani.

> Amman's financial district. "It is a great privilege for me to declare the embassy of the State of Israel in Jordan open," said Mr. Biran. Invitees, who included the charge d'affaires of the United States, Russia, the European Community, Spain and Egypt, drank champagne and orange juice.

"The long border that once separated our countries today unites us." he told officials and journalists attending the ceremony. "I am sure that these two embassies, in Amman and Tel Aviv, will constitute a cornerstone on which we shall build a bridge of friendship, good neighbourliness and cooperation.

Mr. Biran said he hoped the move would inspire Syria

treaties with Israel to complete what he called the "circle of peace" in the Middle

Pictures of Israeli President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres decorated the six-room suite at the Forte Grand Hotel. Scores of policemen, some in anti-riot gear, surrounded the hotel and blocked traffic to the building located in Amman's financial

- A Jewish rabbi blessed the embassy and fixed a mezuzah - a parchment scroll featuring verses from the Bible next to the door in line with a Jewish custom at the opening of new homes and public

buildings. And at the entrance of the hotel an Israeli flag was hoisted next to the Jordanian one but was lowered after the ceremony. The flag will be raised again once a permanent site for the embassy will

be selected. But only several blocks away several hundred protesters opposed to Jordan's



Omar Rifai, director of the Jordanian Foreign at the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv. A permanent Ministry, Sunday raises the Jordanian flag as the Jordanians open their temporary embassy

Israeli mission was inaugustaged a sit-in outside the prime minister's office and rated to applause from burned an Israeli flag. They onlookers. Jordan's flag was described the opening of the raised at the luxury seaside

black day." Islamist and leftist deputies of the Lower House of Parliament criticised the opening of the mission during a regular session of the legislature (see

"enemy's" embassy as "a

story on this page). The Jordanian embassy was opened Sunday afternoon, a few hours after the

embassy will be opened later when a suitable building has been found (AFP photo)

Dan Hotel, where Jordan has rented a four-room suite. Mr. Rifai said at the ceremony he hoped the day would "usher in a new era of peace and prosperity in the region as a whole, leading to a lasting and comprehensive

peace in our entire area." "We sincerely hope this day will usher in a new era of

peace and prosperity in the region as a whole... that future generations will have the peace of mind and tranquility that past generations so painfully lacked," said Rifai, who

raised the flag. Standing beside a framed picture of His Majesty King Hussein at the hotel suite, a beaming Rifai received a bouquet of flowers sent by Israel's army. Israel was rep-

(Continued on page 7)

Nobel laureates part without accord

OSLO (Agencies) — The Israeli and PLÓ leaders parted in disagreement over the peace process on Sunday after receiving the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize for their historic accord on Palestinian self-rule.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO leader Yasser Arafat made no breakthrough in midnight talks on the terms for muchdelayed Palestinian elections — the next stage in the fragile

Asked if he considered it a failure that they could not hammer out a deal on the night they won the prestigious Nobel Prize, Mr. Rabin said: "I dont feel any misgivings about what we have done."

"The Palestinian-Israeli conflict goes back a hundred years and for the first time there is a dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis," he told reporters in the morning. The two sides agreed to

level talks on the critical second stage of the deal redeployment of Israeli troops away from Palestinian population centres on the West Bank before Palestinian elections are held.

I believe we made progress on the way we will continue our negotiations," Mr. Rabin said. But he said Israeli security concerns must be dealt with in a balanced way, warning:

"During the night meeting

"Shortcuts might lead to catastrophe." Israel is worried about redeploying its troops unless the PLO can ensure security in areas where there are many Jewish settlements. Mr. Arafat, in his Nobel

acceptance speech on Satur-

day, insisted on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Arab towns on the West Bank before elections can be held.

under ashes, subsequently dragging peace into a danger area exposed to exploding at any time," the PLO leader

Meanwhile, senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat called Sunday for autonomy elections as soon as possible, and dismissed reports that Israel had proposed a 12month delay.

Mr. Erakat insisted elections could be held before the summer, provided the Israeli army redeploy from Palestinian centres on the West

His comments followed a report in the Tel Aviv newspaper Haaretz that Israel has proposed postponing the elections for a year if the Palestinians insist on redeployment.

Quoting sources in the Israeli delegation in Oslo, the paper said Prime Minister Rabin had warned that talks would take about one year on a total redeployment linked to elections.

strategy in dominating the

whole Arab region." He said

that the embassy would serve

as a "lair for Israel's espion-

age activities and for serving

Israel's political and econo-

mic ambitions in the Arab

Praising the steadfastness

of the Palestinian people Mr.

Saoud reaffirmed his total

rejection of normalisation

with Israel calling on the

Jordanian people to boycott

(Continued on page 7)

Referring to the peace treaty with Israel, Mr. Hassan said it does not stop at the signing of the treaty. "Jordan will pursue the path of peace in practice and in deed and will continue to extend all possible aid to the other partners in the peace process so that a lasting and comprehen-

in the Middle East.' In particular he said Jordan is determined to assist the Palestine National Authority to establish and bolster its national institutions and also to establish a strong Jordanian-Palestinian rela-

Referring to the question of Jerusalem Mr. Hassan said Jordan has honoured its commitment to the holy shrines of the city for many decades and has continued to do so

ance of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank in 1988. Jordan maintained its trusteeship of the holy places and provided them with protection in the face of danger.

"These holy places," he stressed, "would remain in Jordanian custody until a final settlement has been negotiated enabling the Palestinians to regain control over Arab Jerusalem."

he said are facing Serbian aggression. He said that the

He warned that a pullout

Denial of the legitimate rights would only generate feelings of injustice, keep the ember burning hidden. intensify high and middle-MPs criticise Israeli embassy opening

Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — The opening of the Israeli embassy in Amman Sunday came under fire by Parliament members at a regular session held under the chairmanship of Speaker Saad Hayel Srour and in the

By Tareq Momani

presence of Cabinet minis-Deputy Suleiman Saoud from the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party addressed

the session on behalf of his

raises its flag in the Jordanian capital at a time when the country is in need of means to enhance its steadfastness," said Mr. Saoud, who de-

pain over the event.

scribed the day as a "black day for Jordan."

The opening of the Israeli

party and deputies Khalil

Haddadin and Toujan Faisal

expressed their sadness and

"It is a sad day when Israel

embassy here, said Mr. Saoud, "marks a breach for the Israelis to achieve their

near a place called Garagorsky by women sitting defiantly in the road. Mr. Sheets, reporting from near Znamenskoye, said

"There'll be serious resist-

this three years ago." The strategy of Russian forces might be to encircle the capital and, by throttling Mr. Dudayev's government, ultimately make his claim of sovereignty untenable and

Alternatively, the Russians

Dudayev. Mr. Yeltsin, who was

World."

for minor surgery, was said by TASS Sunday to be putting the finishing touches to a speech to the nation on Chechenya. It was not clear when he would deliver it. Chechenya has strategic importance for the Russian

admitted to hospital Saturday

Federation as an oil-refining centre and a transit point for energy supplies from the Caspian Sea.

No outside power has recognised Chechenya as an independent state. But Yeltsin appeared to feel he could no longer continue to lose face over the Chechen problem. In Washington, U.S. President Bill Clinton called on Russia Sunday to resolve the crisis in Chechenya with as little violence as possible, but said the deployment of troops

there was an internal matter. "It is an internal Russian affair and we hope that order can be restored with a minimum of bloodshed and violence " Mr Clinton exid at a

Jordan lauds Iraq's recognition of Luwait

CASABLANCA (Petra) --Jordan has lauded Iraq's open recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity as a step that could help close Islamic ranks in order to meet challenges facing world Muslims.

Addressing a ministerial meeting here to pave the way for the convening of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan said Baghdad's move was a positive step in the right direction and helps to re-establish solidarity among Arab and Muslim states.

He said Jordan hopes that "the Iragi move would help erase all negative elements that led to the past cris2s within the Arab and Islamic nations and would mark the beginning of restoration of brotherly relations between them.

Mr. Hassan also urged Muslim countries to join forces in the face of the new challenges ahead and to contribute more meaningfully to the creation of the new world order.

"Our organisation is facing real challenges and there 7:25 real need for Muslim states to end their disputes and safeguard the nation's higher interests," said Mr. Hassan.

Stressing that the Gulf crisis, which started in 1990, had regrettably left adverse effects on the outcome of the OIC summit in Senegal, he said the adverse effects had subsequently left the Islamic nations in total disarray.

"There is need for solidarity among the Islamic countries not only to protect their own interests and their rights but also to constructively contribute to shaping the new world order rather than remain passive in the face of constant changes taking place around the world," said Mr. Hassan in his address ahead of the OIC summit Tuesday.

sive peace can be established

tionship based on mutual re-

under Israeli occupation. He said despite the sever-

In his address, Mr. Hassan

referred to the tragedy of the

Islamic people in Bosnia who

Serbs, who carry out ethnic cleansing and commit atrocities against the Muslim population, are creating a dangerous situation which ought to stop by all means.

of the U.N. peacekeepers



rally Sunday at the Prime Ministry to protest Islamic Action Front Parliament Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant (2nd right) and the opening of the Israeli embassy in Amman members of eight opposition parties stage a (Photo by Youssef Al Allan) Opposition stages rally against opening of Israeli embassy

Jordanian Communist Party,

the Jordanian Arab Demo-

cratic Party, the Jordanian

Democratic Socialist Party,

Jordanian Democratic Popu-

lar Unity Party, the Arab

Baath Progressive Party and

the National Action Front

Party. Jordan has 23 reg-

flags, and banners which

read: "No to the embassy.

yes to the uprising", "we

reject all forms of normalisa-

tion with the enemy," "no to

lifting the boycott against the

enemy and its continuation

against Iraq." One Israeli

flag was burnt during the

Protestors carried black

istered parties.

By Natasha Bukhari Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — Jordan's opposition parties Sunday stages a sit-in rally to protest the opening of the Israeli embassy in the Kingdom on what they described as a-

"black day in the history of our nation. The sit-in outside the Prime Ministry was attended by about 200 people, including most Islamist deputies and heads of the Kingdom's eight opposition parties — The Islamic Action Front

(IAF), the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, the Russia sends tanks to end Chechen independence bid GROZNY, Russia (R) — Russia sent tanks and troops pouring into Chechenya Sunday to end the rebel terri-

tory's three-year unilateral drive for independence. Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, a former Soviet Air Force general who has led the drive to take his north Caucasus land out of the Russian Federation, immediately warned Moscow its action would cast a "bloody blanket" across the entire region.

"Reactionary imperial circles in Russia are preparing to deal a perfidious, inhuman blow to the Caucasus which could turn the entire region into a bloodbath," he said in a defiant written appeal distributed to journalists. Russian forces were said by ITAR-TASS news agency to be moving towards the capit-

al Grozny in three thrusts

from the east, west and

north-west, though a Russian

spokesman in Moscow

emphasised troops would not

said the Russian action had

Chechen officials at first

try to take Grozny itself.

sabotaged any chance of them attending peace talks set for Monday in Vladikav-

kaz in North Ossetia. But Chechenya's economics and finance minister Taimaz Abubakarov later told Reuters: "There will be talks. The Chechen government has never denied and does not deny now that the problem can be resolved peacefully."

In Grozny there were few

signs of full-scale military

preparations. But this corres-

pondent saw several buses of Dudayev supporters outside the presidential palace towing a variety of big guns.

President Boris Yeltsin set the stage for the military intervention by ordering his government last Friday to use "all available measures" to disarm what he called illegal armed formations in

Chechenya. It climaxed a three-year tense stand-off between Moscow and the mainly-Muslim territory of one million peonie which har boom a star !.

the side of Russia for 200

protest rally.

ity Party.

"This is a step towards the

implementation of Israel

plans to dominate the Arab

Nation," contended Azmi-

Khawaia, head of the Jorda-

nian Democratic Popular Un-

trating, it is yet another de-

cline in the Muslim nation's

history," said a woman parti-

cipant in describing the open-

ing of the Israeli embassy

comes weeks after His Majes-

ty King Hussein warned the

(Continued on page 7)

The silent demonstration

"It is tragic, sad and frus-

Mr. Yeltsin undertook the action against the advice of many allies as well as foes who have warned him could trap Russian forces in a bloody no-win situation in the mountainous region creating "an Afghanistan on home soil."

A Russian government spokesman said the mainly Interior Ministry troops had gone to "restore constitutional order." But he said they would not

400,000.

invasion, or storming Grozny," Valentin Sergeyev, head of the government press centre, told Reuters by telepone. Russia's commercial Ekho Moskvy radio station quoted Ingush Vice-President Boris Agapov as saying five Ingush citizens were killed and more than 10 wounded in clashes with Russian troops moving from Ingushetia towards

"There's no question of an

Reuter correspondent Lawrence Sheets watched at least 400 vehicles including personnel carriers and tanks moving towards Grozny from Mozdok, to the north-west. in northern Ossetia.

Their equipment included

anti-aircraft weapons, de-

mining and bridge-building

equipment, even light patrol

boats for river transport

mounted on top of army trucks. There were no firm reports of clashes. But Reuter photographer storm Grozny, a city of Sean Ramsay said the appearance of a Russian heli-

> TASS reported that Russian forces had reached the village of Tolstoy-Yurt which would put them only about 15 kilometres across mountains from Grozny.

> the government in Moscow

copter gunship over a hill

near a locality called Barzuki

led to half-an-hour of heavy

firing from the ground.

But a special Chechenya Information Centre set up by

The progress of one convoy was blocked for a time

> Russian soldiers appeared jumpy and tense. ance. There will be much blood-shed on both sides," said Yevgeny Yegorov, a Russian officer in Nizhny-Naur. "We should have done

force him to go.

could provide anti-Dudayev opposition forces with logistical support to take Grozny. Forces of the Moscowbacked opposition, the Provisional Council, have launched several so-far unsuccess-

OIC head urges end to wars, stresses need to improve image of Islam

CASABLANCA, Morocco (Agencies) — Ministers from Muslim states got down to business here Sunday after hearing an appeal to help end wars and correct a distorted image of Islam.

Lij c rit F

Foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference were to discuss Bosnia. Islamic militancy, and other conflicts involving Muslims ahead of the OIC summit starting in Casablanca Tuesday.

"Islam... is a message of peace and tolerance addressed to the entire universe," OIC Secretary General ministers at the opening of talks late Saturday.

But now "Our Islamic world has fallen prey to all kinds of conflicts, notably in Palestine, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia,"

These troubles were a result of "foreign aggression or deadly confrontations among national factions," he told the group gathered under a

tent outside a luxury hotel. In addition, he continued, "the image of our religion and its followers has undergone a serious distortion, either because of ignorance or "skilfully orchestrated manipulation.

To meet these challenges, the OIC's 50 Muslim states and the Palestine Liberation Organisation must "closely cooperate" to find solutions to illiteracy and technological

"backwardness," he said. Before heading to the summit from Cairo, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak urged the OIC to stop religious extremism which he said hurt the image of Islam. The ministers are to review

stop the export of fundamentalist violence. It calls for the OIC members to refuse to finance or support "terrorist acts" and to make sure their territory is

an unprecedented plan to

not used by violent groups to plan or carry out attacks. The draft calls on them "not to host, train, arm, finance or provide facilities" for violent groups, according

Philippines and Bulgaria.

Jordan warns

over Jerusalem

discuss Amman's historic role

over Islamic sites in Arab

Iranian Deputy Foreign

Minister Mohammad Javad

Zarif said in Morocco earlier

in the day Jerusalem would

also be high on the agenda of

the Dec. 13-14 Islamic sum-

"With all due respect, the

issue is not for the Islamic

summit to decide on," Jorda-

nian Prime Minister Abdul-

Salam Al Majali said in a

speech delivered on his be-

half at a seminar on

Jordanian-Palestinian ties

which opened in Amman

summit could contribute

funds to support Arab hous-

ing projects in Jerusalem and

maintain holy monuments in

an effort "to keep the Arab

pervision of the holy places,

it remains not negotiable.

Therefore, we hope that our

brothers would understand

the situation and its reasons,"

lowed fears that the PLO.

Saudi Arabia and Morocco,

each for different reasons,

could join hands over Jeru-

salem, and corner Jordan at

Jordanian officials said

they heard unconfirmed re-

ports over the weekend that a

Palestinian leader who struck

a recent deal with Amman

over its role in Jerusalem was

not authorised to do so by

Palestine Liberation Orga-

Mr. Majali's remarks fol-

"Regarding the right of su-

identity of Jerusalem."

But Mr. Majali said the

Saudi Arabia.

Jerusalem.

Saturday.

he said.

to a copy of the document. The plan was developed by Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and Turkey, who have all seen a sharp increase in the threat from fundamentalism since the last OIC summit was held in Senegal in December 1991.

On an issue that has troubled its relations with the West, the organisation is trying to adopt a plan to prevent rebel Bosnian Serb forces from conquering the whole of Bosnia-

Herzegovina. It is offering to provide Muslim troops to replace U.N. peacekeepers from Western nations, should they withdraw from the war-torn former Yugoslav republic.

Muslim countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan and Jordan already contribute

Under proposals to be debated by the ministers and submitted to the summit, the United Nations will be urged to broaden U.N. "safe areas" in Bosnia — areas under international protection.

Repeating the OIC's longheld stance that the U.N. arms embargo against Bosnia should be lifted, the proposals stress the need for the government in Sarajevo to have the means to defend

Some delegates were pushing for an even stronger. resolution but gave no de-

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic is to participate as an observer at the OIC summit, which will be attended by other heads of government and heads of

The ministers were also to discuss the status of Jerusalem and the Palestinian problem.

misation (PLO) chief Yasser They were asked to sup- Arafat.



view of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference's (OIC) ministerial meeting in Casablanca (AFP photo)

Divided Druze families on Golan exchange news by megaphone

QUNEITRA, Syria (AFP) - Druze families on the Golan Heights, separated by the border created by Israeli forces in 1967, have to resort to megaphones to exchange

Dozens of inhabitants of Majdel Shams gather several times a week to hear news from their relatives who remain in five Druze villages now occupied by Israel, 300

metres away. Imad, 25, travelled from Damascus to speak to his parents who live in the village of Bagata in the Israelioccupied Golan.

"Are you still a bad worker?" asks his father Suleiman, his voice echoing off the slopes of snow-capped Mount Hermon.

Imad bursts into laughter. "Of course, and God willing I'll be returning in May," he

He is one of several dozen Golan Druze allowed by Israel to study in Damascus. some 15,000 Syrian Druze live on the Israeli-occupied

A final-year dental student, Imad wants to go home to practise after his exams. On the other side of the valley cousins and friends

scramble to speak through the megaphone to Imad. Briefly they are interrupted by an Israeli army truck passing along the road below. "We are keeping quiet to avoid creating difficulties for razed town.

our families," Imad says. The distant figure of Hassan Fakhreddin cries out: "We are hostages, of course. "But we will never give in, occupation. Israel must return the whole

of the plateau. Syria is our country, our mother. Nobody can ever forget his mother.' Israel occupied threequarters of the Golan Heights, which overlook the

Galilee region of Israel to the west and the Damascus road to the east. Some 12,000 Israel settlers

live on the strategic plateau, which is the chief stumbling block in the Israeli-Syrian peace talks. Damascus wants Israel to

promise first to return all of the Golan, seized in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Israel has demanded a

commitment for peace with open borders before negotiating the scale of any withdrawai.

The town of Quneitra, buildozed and dynamited by Israeli troops, remains a symbol of Syria's determination to recover its land.

The Israeli army destroyed 99 per cent of the town of 50,000 before pulling out in June 1974.

They used the hospital for target practice, and still occupy a small area of the

Syria has built a "new Quneitra" a few kilometres away, and plans to preserve the ruins in memory of the

Only 14 people remain in the ghost town. They include Zohdi Shakai, his wife and four children. A Circassian born in Quneitra in 1936, Zohdi has resisted Israeli pressure to leave and has been assisted by Red Cross officials.

The house where he was born was blown up. His present home, full of flowers and cats, is like a small oasis in a deserted wasteland.

Zohdi favours peace. "It's always better to live in peace with one's neighbours. But first the Israelis must give us back our land." Official Syrian-Israeli

peace talks have been suspended since the Feb. 25 massacre of 29 Muslims by a Jewish settler in a Hebron mosque.

However, the two sides will hold talks soon in Washington paving the way to a resumption of bilateral negotiations, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara said Friday.

"The general feeling is that

the Mujabedeen leaders are

on their way to succeeding

where the Russians and (for-

mer communist president)

Najibullah failed — in com-

pletely destroying the coun-

try and capital which had

been spared," one diplomat

Since the collapse of the

communist government in

April 1992, hostilities have

continued virtually unabated

despite several peace accords

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait ready for ties with Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) - Kuwait his formed Israel that it is willing to establish an intensection as the first step towards full diplomatic ties, foreign ministry sources said Sunday. The news came from Gulf emirate in a recent message to the foreign ministry.

Jerusalem, the sources said. No Israeli diplomat has no an official visit to Kuwait although contacts have be made openly in neighbouring Oman, Bahrain and Om with a view to setting up relations. The sources said a question of ties with Kuwait could be raised on the sideland of multilateral talks on disarmament in the Middle Ex which were set to open in Tunis on Sunday. Fores Ministry deputy director Eytan Ben Tzur is a member Israel's delegation to the talks and was expected to me the head of Kuwait's delegation in Tunis. Following is historic autonomy agreement with the PLO in September 1993, Morocco opened a liaison bureau in Tel Aviv be November 1, one step up from an interest section on the diplomatic ladder. Tunisia agreed in October to open interest section, which will be sited in the embassy of third country in Tel Aviv. Jordan and Israel sealed a pear treaty on October 26 and were set to open embassies Amman and Tel Aviv later Sunday.

15 killed in Somalia clan battle

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) - At least 15 people went killed and another 198 injured in the fifth day of the fighting in southern Mogadishu, hospital sources said Saturday. The sources at Benadir and Digfer hosping who spoke on condition that they not be identified, said the two hospitals had taken in a total of 98 injured people, and 100 others were treated at the Pakistan Field hospital. The battle is between supporters of Ali Mahdi Mohammad who controls northern Mogadishu, and General Moha mad Farah Aideed, who holds the southern part of Indian Ocean port city. J. Victor Gheho, the special representative of the U.N. Secretary-General, said in statement that the fighting made it difficult for the United Nations and private agencies "to sustain humanitarias activities in Somalia." Gbeho said the United Nations was prepared to mediate between the factions. A doctor a Digfer said the hospital was running short of medicine and neither the U.N. operation in Somulia nor other aid agencies had responded to appeals for assistance. Some of the wounded were trapped in contested areas, the domor said, and appealed for a truce to permit treatment. Five Indian soldiers on peacekeeping duty were injured Thursday night when a rocket propelled grenade hit their quarters at the airport. The same day, two Pakistani soldiers were wounded by stray fire that fell inside the U.N. compound. On Wednesday, an Egyptian soldier was killed and an Indian wounded by stray bullets.

Tomb, mummy found near pyramids

CAIRO (AFP) --- A 2.000-year-old tomb containing the mummy of a child was discovered Saturday next to a controversial motorway which slices past the pyramids, Egyptian Culture Minister Faruq Hosni said. President Hosni Muharak last month ordered a halt to construction work on the motorway, which will pass within 2.5 kilometres of the Sphinx and the three pyramids at Giz. just outside Cairo, pending the outcome of an archaelegical study into the possible effects of the road. "The archaeological team from the Organisation of Egyptian Antiquities has discovered the mummy of a child in a tomb carved out of rock, which confirms the existence of a cemetery on the motorway," Mr. Hosni said. Archeologists discovered pots and glassware next to the mummy, he added, quoted by the daily Al Akhbar's Sunday edition UNESCO led the international outery over building the motorway close to the last of the seven ancient wonders of the world still in existence.

Iran invites groups to visit prisons

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has invited international human rights monitors to visit its prisons, state-run Tehran Radie has reported. The announcement was made during at unusual news conference at Tehran's notorious Evin Prisos by the head of the Prison Service, Assadollah Lajevard, the radio reported late Saturday. Foreign human rights monitors would be able to visit Iran and its prisons after "necessary coordination with the Foreign Ministry," Mr. Lajevardi said, without saying when that would be Although it would not be the first time that human rights monitors have visited Iranian prisons, the blanket invitation by Mr. Lajevardi was unprecedented. Mr. Lajevardi said 100,481 people were held in Iran's prisons, more than half of them for drug offenses and nearly all the rest for fraud, murder, burglary and sexual crimes. "There are a few prisoners" from opposition groups such as the fragbased Mujahedeen Khalq, the radio quoted him as saying ina report monitored by the British Broadcasting Com (BBC). A number of them had been released recently, be said, without giving figures. That estimate was at odds with figures from human rights groups and international one nisations. Opposition groups claim many of those impreoned for drug offenses are political prisoners jailed of

trumped-up accusations. Blind man jailed for molesting girl

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) - A blind man has been jailed in 15 years for kidnapping and sexually molesting an 11-year old girl, the Arah Times said Sunday. The min was given 15 years hard labour while a male accomplice who ided the kidnapping got 10 years. The court ordered both mer were to be deported after serving their terms pending in appeal court hearing to review the sentences, the pair added. It did not identify the men or give their national

Rabin seeks business in Japan, S. Korea

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM cut diamonds — climbed zhak Rabin arrives in Japan and South Korea next week on the first visits by an Israeli premier, hoping to strengthen ties with the Asian powerhouses.

"I'm going to Japan and South Korea to try to boost trade links," Mr. Rabin told

"There is throughout the world an opening towards Israel today, turning us into a centre of interest," he said before leaving to receive the Nobel Peace Prize on Satur-

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Mr. Rabin was to fly on to Tokyo where talks are scheduled with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama Mon-

Accompanied by his wife Leah, Mr. Rabin will call on Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace the following Mr. Rabin said Israel was

taking steps to encourage Japanese investment in Israeli firms and the Tel Aviv stock exchange. After bitter complaints in Israel about Tokyo's discreet

following of the Arab boycott

before the 1992 autonomy

deal with the Palestinians.

exports are now soaring. Surprisingly, two-day trade is almost balanced. Exports to Japan — mainly

(AFP) - Prime Minister Yit- some 20 per cent over the Syria, will no doubt also be first eight months of 1994 to \$613 million compared with the same period of last year. Imports tumbled to \$634 mil-

> In 1993, Israel exported goods worth \$769 million while imports from Japan reached \$1.05 billion.

> But Japanese car sales in particular have plunged in Israel as the yen has risen. Mr. Rabin travels on to Seoul on Wednesday for four days in South Korea.

Talks are slated with President Kim Young-Sam, the first Israeli-South Korean summit. While Mr. Rabin will pro-

vide an overview of the Middle East peace process, trade issues will again be uppermost on his mind, officials

The first eight months of 1994 have seen a spurt in South Korea's exports to Israel to \$146.6 million compared with just \$80 million for the same period of last

Israel's exports have slightly fallen to \$93.2 million. In 1993, Israeli exported \$138.2 million worth of goods to Seoul and imported \$137.9

Israel's secret talks with North Korea, reportedly resumed last March despite U.S. protests in a bid to halt missile deliveries to Iran and

However, Israel enforces a blackout on arm sales, which account for an important shares of exports.

South Korea and Israel have maintained ties since 1962, but Seoul only reopened an embassy in Tel Aviv in 1993, after shutting it down in 1978 in solidarity with Arab countries.

Israel upgraded its representation in Seoul to ambassador level in 1992, but was considered to have missed out on the Asian tiger's economic boom.

The Tokyo and Seoul trips come after Mr. Rabin's historic visit to China in October 1993 to seal the reopening of relations on January 24,

The collapse of the Soviet bloc and the Middle East peace process launched in October 1991 opened Asia to Israel, even if the continent's Muslim countries have yet to join the trend.

Five days after China, India established ties with Israel and links are flourishing.

Mr. Rabin has yet to visit New Delhi, but he stopped over in Singapore and Jakarta en route home from Beijing, although Indonesia and Israel have no diplomatic

Muslim countries helpless in face of Afghan war — diplomats ignored by the warlords in

ISLAMABAD (AFP) - The latest failed bid to solve the bloody conflict in Afghanistan which has cost more than 20,000 lives will be on the agenda of a summit meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) this week.

But diplomats here say that Afghan people.

ate a ceasefire between the

apart from self-interested efforts by Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to mediate an end to the civil war Muslim countries have shown a growing helplessness and indifference to the plight of the The latest failure to negoti-

hosted by Tehran and backed by the OIC follows other initiatives taken by Islamabad and Riyadh. Iran announced Wednes-

warring factions in talks

day that the rival factions had "stressed the need to establish a ceasefire" but failed to agree on a date or precise arrangements for one after a week of talks.

The OIC, which opens its summit in Morocco on December 14, has been reduced. to chuming out ritual statements expressing concern at the spiralling civil war, while all its pleas for a ceasefire

including one reached in the Muslim Holy City of Mecca have been systematically 3 die in clash on Yemen-Saudi border

DUBAI (R) — Three Yemewelcomed the setting up of a ni officers were killed in a joint investigation commisclash Wednesday on the disputed and possibly oil-rich border between Saudi Arabia

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

and Yemen, a diplomat in the Yemeni capital Sana'a said. Yemen has not reported any clash but on Wednesday night it accused Saudi Arabia of violating its border by erecting observation posts and building roads in frontier

Saudi Arabia reacted by saying "some development" was taking place on the border in Saudi territory and

Both claim sovereignty over the border area. Several rounds of negotiations over the past two years failed to settle their dispute.

In October Yemen's foreign ministry said it would protest to Saudi authorities over an incident in which it said the Saudi Air Force intercepted a civilian Yemeni aircraft on a domestic flight

near the border. The diplomat, who declined to be named, said by

telephone that he believed the clash took place in Sa'da province on the border, about 240 kilometres north of Sanaa.

"Very clearly something has happened." he said. "The facts of the matter are true that there was some sort of border clash," he said.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani on Thursday briefed ambassadors of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council on the incident and border issues, he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

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19:00	New in French
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PRAYER TIMES

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WEATHER

Tel. 811295

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The Evangelical Local Church in

Showers are expected in the northern and central parts of the country with winds westerly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm. In the afternoon winds will become

southerly and seas rough.	
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Princess Basma Hospital	(02)27555
Greek Catholic Hospital	מערבו עוו
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Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA**

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5. where it should always be veri-ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) **Flights** (Terminal 1) 99:99 Damascus (RJ) 99:15 Aqaba (RJ) 99:40 New Delhi (RJ) 09:53 Beirut (R1) 99:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:00 Dhahran (RJ) 16:50 Cairo (R1) 17:00 New York. Amsterdam (RJ) 19:45 Bangkok (RJ) 19:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2)

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18:15 Duhar (EK) 23:10 London (BA) #1:10 Amsterdam (KL) DEPARTURES

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Royal Jordanian (RJ)

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AWARDING ACHIEVEMENT: Deputising the Amman Baccalaureate School. Awardees

for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, must pass through a series of achievements

His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Moham- which test their academic physical and social

mad Sunday distributes certificates to reci- strengths as well as their commitment to civic

'Contractor of collapsed building

its team's visit to the site in

October, the contractor was

fined and issued a warning by

proves the importance of

having only JCA-registered

contractors carrying out con-

tion we strongly demand

adherence to the eighth arti-

cle of the Contractors Asso-

ciation Law and call for ac-

tion to be taken to monitor

contractors' work in that no

one can carry out works with-

out being registered and clas-

sified by the association...so

that yesterday's incident

would not be repeated," they

They also stressed the need

for cooperation among the

Greater Amman Municipal-

ity, the JCA and other concerned authorities to control

Mr. Shadid and Mr. Zu'bi

said the association has pre-

viously fined and issued

warnings to 400 contractors

in Jordan, noting that it was

the contracting sector.

"As a contractors associa-

They said the incident

the association.

struction projects.

pients of the golden Crown Prince Award at duty (Petra photo)

was not JCA-registered'

AMMAN (Petra) — The

contractor who was con-

structing the five-storey

building that collapsed in

Nazzai suburb Saturday was

not registered with the Jor-

dan Contractors Association

(JCA), JCA officials Sunday

At a press conference at

the association, JCA Secret-

ary Raouf Shadid and asso-

ciation board memer Salti Al

Zu'bi said a JCA team in-

spected the structure of the

building on Oct. 29 and disc-

overed that the contractor

was not a JCA member; con-

stituting a violation of the

No one was hurt in the

incident Saturday evening.

Amman Mayor Mamdouh

Abbadi said at the site Satur-

day that although the build-

ing was licensed by the Jor-

dan Engineers Association

(JEA) as meeting building

codes, it was too early to

determine who was responsi-

ble for the collapse of the

The JCA officials said after

structure.

association's regulations.

SINBRIER

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Funm at 5:30 p.m.

Novel recital by novelist Umayma Nasser at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art

EXHIBITIONS

Oueen Alia Fund for Social Development new offices, Al Madina Al Munawara

* Exhibition of portraits by Fahreinissa Zeid and the exhibition of contemporary Arab artist at Darat Al Funun.

Abbas at Alia Art Gallery.

* Exhibition of abstract art by several artists

★ Exhibition of paintings by Ismail and Tamam Shammout at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

* Exhibition of paintings by Sadik Kwaish at

* Exhibition by Akram Naji Shaker at Ab'aad Art Gallery. Fund Mimi at Instituto Cervantes (the A Exhibition by artists Lattif Al Khateeb and

the French Cultural Centre.

of gas poisoning

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A man and his wife suffocated to death in their bathrooms in Al Quesmeh area Saturday from carbon monoxide poisoning, according to Public Security Department (PSD) reports.

Mustafa A., (28) and his wife, Samira A., (27) were in the bathroom with the door closed and apparently did not notice that a portable gas heater (in the bathroom) had stopped functioning but continued to emit the poisonous gas, said the report.

The couple's three-yearold daughter went to the neighbours' when she could not wake her parents up. "Mommy and Daddy won't wake up," a neigh-

all the association can do

because it is not an executive

They said any contractor

remains responsible for struc-

tures he/she builds for a

period of 10 years and cannot

violate any of the construc-

tion codes even if it were at

the request of the building

They said engineering con-

sultancy offices should only

cooperate with JCA-

registered contractors in

accordance with the eighth

article of the association's

They also said the Amman

Municipality has no legal

jurisdiction over the issue,

saying that the Governor of

Amman has set up a technical

committee to study Satur-

Article VIII of the Con-

tractors Association Law

stipulates that no Jordanian

or non-Jordanian person or

firm can become a practising

contractor without being reg-

istered with the association.

day's incident.

authority.

bour quoted the child as Liquefied natural gas, which is used in gas cylinders for heating and cook-

ing, is colourless and poisonous. It is mainly a mixture of carbon monoxide and hydrogen and is almost entirely combustible. Accidents of the sort reported Saturday increase during the winter, Civil De-

fence Department officials have said, because the use of gas and kerosene heaters is common and "unfortunately some people are not cautious enough when handling and using this energy source."

Couple dies Jordan votes against repeal of capital punishment law

NEW YORK (Petra) - Jordan joined other Islamic nations in voting against a motion submitted to the U.N. General Assembly to abolish capital punishment in their countries, stressing that the repeal of such laws would be contrary to the teachings of

Islam. Walid Obeidat, who represented Jordan at the special General Assembly committee meeting which voted against the rescinding of capital punishment, said that such severe punishment serves as a deterrent to criminals.

After three sessions of debate, the special General Assembly committee decided against urging nations to repeal their capital punishment laws. The actual vote on the

motion was 44 nations against, 34 in favour, 74 states abstaining.

In an address to the committee, Mr. Obeidat said that Jordan rejected the call to abolish capital punishment because such a move would also contradict with the U.N. Charter itself and run contrary to the teachings of

The repeal of capital punishment would allow those who violate human dignity to hide behind the General Assembly's ruling and thus attempt to escape from punishment as stipulated in national laws, said Mr. Obeidat.

Noting that Jordan was proud of its Islamic heritage which guaranteed all peoples' rights including the right to

life, Mr. Obeidat said that at the same time the country's laws impose severe punishment on anyone threatening the life of another or en-

dangering society. Commenting on the U.N. General Assembly vote. Minister of Justice Hisham Tel said that Jordan was intent on ensuring the legal defence and guaranteeing the rights of all persons accused of any crimes.

Capital punishment, he said, is only meted out in cases where an individual has endangered or taken the life of another.

The government appoints a defence lawyer for defendants who are unable to afford legal fees, added the minister.

Mr. Tel explained that

under Jordanian law, when a guilty verdict results in a death sentence, the case is referred to the Court of Cassation which reexamines the entire case. He said the prosecutor general may or may not recommend the death penalty.

If the death penalty is recommended and the Court of Cassation approves the sentence the case is then referred to the justice minister who in turn refers it to the Council of Ministers and then to His Majesty King Hussein who is empowered to commute the sentence or order the execution upon the government's

Thus, the minister said, capital punishment involves the executive as well as the judicial branches of the state.

recommendations.

CBJ chief sees increased prospect for trade exchanges, investments

AMMAN (Petra) — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi said the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty has increased the prospect of capital and trade exchanges and investments because it created an atmosphere of tranquility and security for investors.

In a lecture at Al Arab Insurance Company on the benefits of peace to the banking and insurance industries, Dr. Nabulsi said the peace treaty has opened the road for development and modernisation and paved the ground for launching joint projects within the regional concept.

The peace treaty with

Israel is expected to have beneficial consequences on the Jordanian economy, particularly the insurance sector, but the insurance companies have to adopt sound plans to cater to the changes and developments in the insurance market, said Dr. Nabulsi.

Stressing the need for the insurance sector to advance its cooperation with the banking sector, Dr. Nabulsi said that progress here can start with the modernisation of existing financial and insurance laws in a manner that would upgrade and improve concepts, policies and methods related to insurance operations.

He said that the insurance

sector should embark on immediate research in order to come up with modern methods that would ensure the industry's progress in the coming stage.

Several working papers were presented to the meeting which also entailed an open debate on the work of insurance companies and their cooperation with banks.

The participants, who represented Jordanian banks and insurance companies, recommended that the Association of Banks in Jordan arrange for continuous contacts with insurance firms and work towards the creation of an institution to insure bank deposits.



Mohammad Nabulsi

Oil exploration continues, says energy minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government is seeking to enlist private sector firms to prospect for and exploit oil and gas in Jordan and is proceeding with plans to transfer the work of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) to a private oil company, said Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Talal Ureigat.

Addressing a seminar organised by the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) on petroleum in Jordan, the minister said that the search for oil constituted one of the main challenges for the Kingdom in the past two decades as the country witnessed intensive oil explorations by the NRA and foreign firms.

With the increase in the population, estimated at five per cent last year, the country is in need of additional quantities of oil and gas for domestic, industrial and other uses, he said.

Noting that Jordan's oil bill last year amounted to JD 315 million, the minister said that the sums paid for importing oil accounted for nine per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) or 15 per cent of the total value of imported goods.

Referring to gas production at the Risheh fields, the minister said that Jordan's 1993 consumption of gas constituted 3.7 per cent of total fuel consumption for different purposes.

He said surveys and oil exploration covered only 10,000-square-kilometres of land out of a total of a 70,000square-kilometre area of sedimentary rock where oil discovery is possible.

Mr. Ureigat said that the NRA and foreign oil firms have so far dug 90 exploratory wells of which 76 were financed by the government. adding that JD 130 million has so far been spent on oil exploration in the country and the process was continuing.

Last July, the Council of Ministers announced its approval of a recommenda-



tion by a ministerial panel to set up a company to be entrusted with the exploration and exploitation of oil and

In August, the minister announced that drilling for additional gas wells at Al Risheh district was proceeding-to increase quantities of extracted gas used to generate electricity.

He said that the six existing gas wells at Al Risheh produce a total of 26 million cubic feet of natural gas daily but the ministry needs more gas to raise to 20 per cent from 15 per cent the total amount of electric power generated by natural gas in

Azzam Huneidi of the JEA Geology Department addressed the meeting held at the Professional Association Complex outlining his department's activities in helping the country extract natural resources.

Several working papers were reviewed at the meeting, all focusing on oil exploration in the Kingdom and future prospects as well as the likelihood of exploiting oil shale to produce oil...

NADIM SAWALHA will hold

A DRAMA WORKSHOP

(10 th Jan - 12th Feb 1995. Evenings 5.30 - 7.30)

Acting, Movement, Speech, Voice,

Concentration and Relaxation

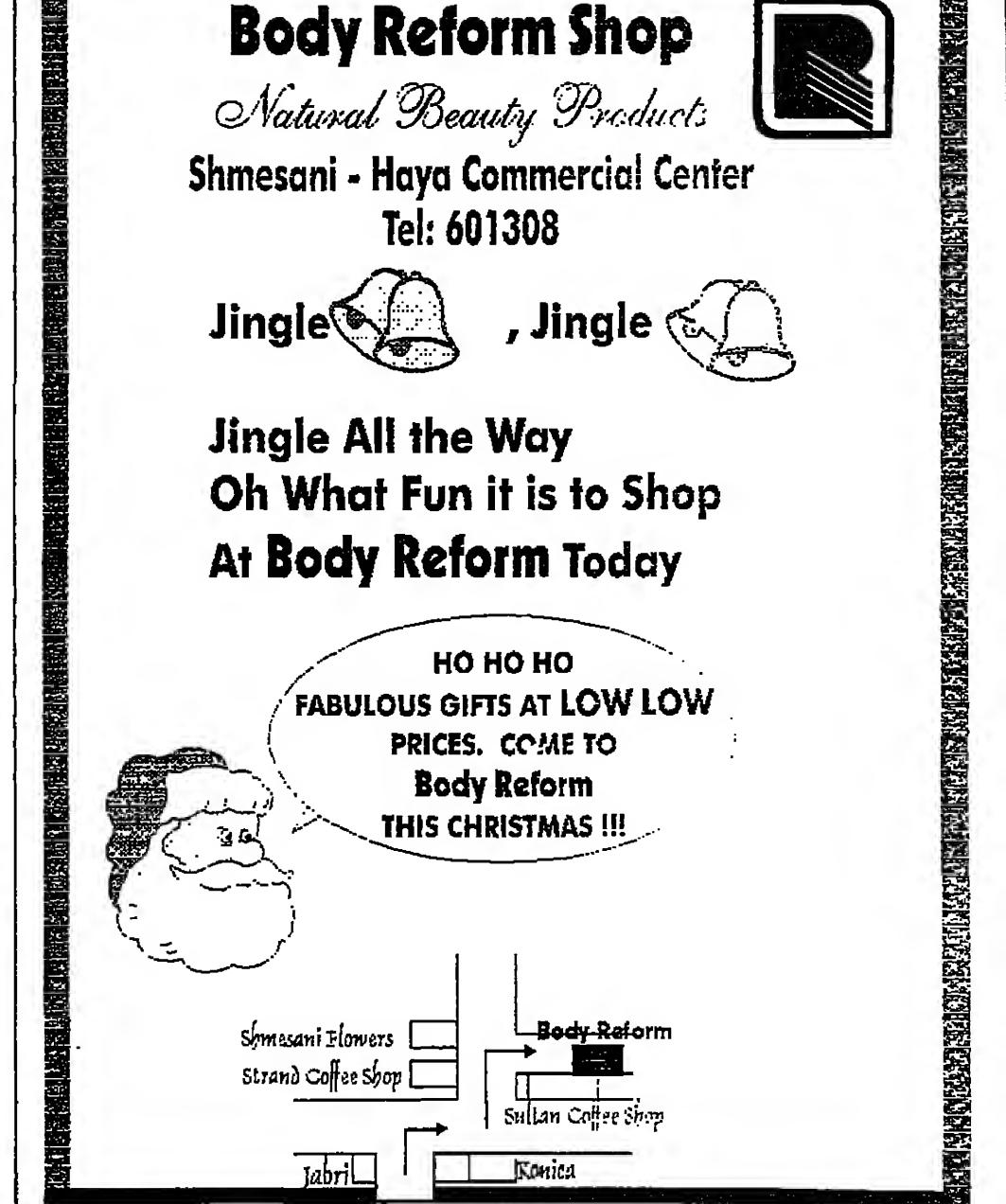
For details: Call Abeer at the

Nabil and Hisham Theater

Tel: 625155

along which priority zones will be defined, (Petra photo) according to a ministry spokesperson. Dr.

TOWARDS A TOURISM STRATEGY: Adwan said the ministry appreciated the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities cooperation of the government of Japan Mohammad Adwan Saturday receives in and the Japanese International Cooperahis office a Japanese delegation of 14 tion Agency (JICA) in conducting this tourism experts. The visiting team, which study. The visit of this delegation follows a arrived in Jordan to prepare a compre- previous visit of another Japanese team hensive study on tourism development in which arrived in Jordan in mid-July to the Kingdom, will start their work today prepare a preliminary study on tourism in with a Jordanian team. The scope of work the country. Also attending the meeting covers developing a long term tourism were Ghassan Mufleh (left), secretary strategy till the year 2010 for the entire general of the Ministry of Tourism and country, and a detailed study that will Antiquities, and Dr. Abu Ayyash, assiscover the area from Amman to Aqaba, tant secretary general of the ministry



unemployment and foreign debt - require the Complex. The workshop, organised by the collaboration of the Kingdom's governmental Queen Alia Fund for Social Development and non-governmental organisations. Other (QAF) in cooperation with a German volunaddresses were also delivered by Director of tary organisation, will discuss the role of QAF's Projects' Planning Department Amer pioneering voluntary societies in Jordan and Bakir and other officials (Petra photo) Europe and training offered to their person-

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

PIANO RECITAL

WORK: Participants Sunday attend a two-day

workshop on voluntary organisations opened

at the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Development

* A Four-hand Piano Recital by Francisco Roig and Paloma Sanchez De Leon at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

Film (in French) entitled "Coup De & Exhibition of oil paintings by Salman Foudre" at the French Cultural Centre at

* Film (in English) entitled "Donatelio: the First Modern Sculptor" (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khreis) at Darat Al

Novel Recital

at 6:30 p.m.

Art exhibition by Ammar Khammash and Spanish Cultural Centre). Exhibition of home furnishings and furniture entitled "Colours and Crafts" at the

nel. President of the General Union of Volun-

tary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Al Khatib said

in an opening address that the three main

social problems facing Jordan - poverty,

at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

☆ Exhibition of Muna Saudi's private collection of contemporary arts and Jordanian antiques at Abdown Village (Tel 829700).

Muhy Khalcefa at the Housing Bank Gal-



Tajwanese film

movie awards

TAIPEI (AP) - Vive L'Amour. a Taiwanese movie about three people?

wins top

East Europeans return home with promises from EU

BRUSSELS (R) — East European leaders returned to their home capitals Sunday with a package of firm promises from the European Union (EU) that they would one day become members. though without knowing when.

The EU capped its end-ofyear summit in the German city of Essen with a landmark meeting Saturday with the prime minister of Poland. Hungary, the Czech Republic. Slovakia. Bulgaria and Romania.

ie ti

During a workmanlike two-day summit, the EU leaders told the Easterners they would one day be members of the wealthy and democratic bloc and offered them cash and advice to get there.

The summit also agreed a broad action plan to fight unemployment in the EU. pledged to keep supporting peacekeeping troops in Bosnia and held out the prospect of a free-trade zone throughout the Mediterranean.

They heaped glowing praise on European Commission President Jacques Delors, who is leaving the executive in January after 10 years. Speculation on whether Mr. Deiors would decide to run for French president next year was a constant sideshow during the

NEW YORK (R) — A

second crew member was res-

cued and the bodies of sever-

al others retrieved Saturday

as rescuers combed the chilly

North Atlantic for survivors

of a Ukrainian cargo ship that

sank Friday in storm-tossed

He was plucked to safety

HONG KONG (AFP) - A

must be set up in Hong Kong

following the colony's hand-

over to China in 1997. Beij-

ing's top official on Hong

Kong affairs was quoted as

Hong Kong and Macau

Affairs Office, said that Bri-

tain had "foiled" legislative

arrangements for the post-

1997 government, according

to a Xinhua News Agency

As a result, he said, a

number of problems had

arisen, making the establish-

ment of a post-1997 interim

legislative body "impera-

are." But Mr. Lu added that

the body would have limited

power and be disbanded after

end of a meeting in Beijing of

a Chinese-appointed advisory

committee on Hong Kong,

also attended by Foreign

Minister Qian Qichen.

Mr. Lu was speaking at the

12 months.

dispatch monitored here.

Lu Ping, director of the

But it was the embracing of Eastern Europe that stole the

"I would not underestimate the symbolic importance of what happened today." Vaclav Klaus, prime minister of the Czech Republic. said after the meeting

with the EU.

In practical terms, the Easterners were offered trade concessions and the promise of a "white paper," effectively a guide book, on how to harmonise their laws with the EU's single market and competition rules.

They were also promised a base line of financial support of at least 5.5 billion European Currency Units (\$6.65 billion) over the next five

Significantly, more of this money can now be spent on infrastructure, a liberalisation of EU rules eagerly sought by the easterners.

What they did not get, and what many have sought, is either a firm date by which to expect membership or a date for negotiations to start.

"It is important that we should not awaken false expectations," German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the summit host and chairman, said. The EU is holding off on offering a firm timetable partly reflecting the difficulty

Several bodies of sailors found, 2nd

rescued from sunken Ukrainian ship

Saturday morning by a heli-

copter after drifting 110

kilometres overnight after

the sinking of the ill-fated

ship with 31 crew members

"He was 70 miles southeast

of where we thought he'd

be," said Major Jim Finkle, a

'imperative'for Hong Kong after 1997

strained since Governor

Chris Patten came up with a

democratic reform package

watered-down version of

which was pushed through

tructure projects in Hong

Kong, topped by a new air-

port, have also been irritants.

forms, which would broaden

the electoral base here,

saying they violated the terms

of the 1984 joint declaration

signed by Beijing and Lon-

don on the colony's hand-

ment Monday said it would

hold elections for the Legisla-

tive Council next year, de-

spite Beijing's vow to dismantle the body after 1997.

urged Britain to cooperate on

Hong Kong's future and said

the colony's prosperity de-

pended on that of the main-

Meanwhile, Mr. Qian

The Hong Kong govern-

China has blasted the re-

Disputes over major infras-

for the colony in 1992,

the legislature this June.

Relations between Hong

China: Temporary legislature is

temperary legislative body. Kong and Britain have been

trade zone. The southerners are worried about the rise of Islamic

spokesman for the New York

spirits and was able to walk to

a waiting ambulance after the

helicopter arrived at

Shearwater Air Base in Hali-

fax, Nova Scotia, Saturday

While noting that China-

was going by the principle of

relying on "our own efforts,"

Mr. Qian told the Hong

Kong Advisory Committee

that Beijing wanted "earnest

cooperation" from London.

tion is constructive," the

agency quoted him as saying.

ing would abide by the "one

country, two systems" princi-

ple, and that patriarch Deng

Xiaoping had set out to en-

sure the participation of

Hong Kong residents in the

Mr. Oian, who is also vice

premier, repeated charges

that unnamed parties inside

and outside the colony were

out to sabotage and cause

instability in Hong Kong, and

"we must strenthen our vigi-

nation is prosperous. Hong

Kong will certainly be

"So long as the Chinese

lance over such factors.

prosperous," he said.

post-1997 government.

"Only this kind of coopera-

He also stressed that Beij-

The survivor was in good

Air National Guard.

evening, Finkle said.

land, Xinhua said.

current numbers.

Spanish Prime Minister

Felipe Gonzales indicated he

would get the ball rolling on

this when he announced at

the summit that he would call

a special summit to discuss

the EU's future during the

Spanish EU presidency

which begins in July next

Spain, and France, which

holds the EU presidency for

six months beginning in Janu-

ary, are also likely to shift

some of the emphasis away

In a move motivated by the

concerns of France, Spain

and other southern EU coun-

tries over security in the

Mediterranean basin, the

summit endorsed a new poli-

cy towards that region that

envisages an eventual free-

from the East.

of bringing in the poor econofundamentalism in countries mies of the East and partly such as Algeria. They also because of a need for the bloc fear the move to embrace the to sort out its own internal East will shift the EU's political balance too far away problems. With three countries. Aufrom them.

Meanwhile, groups favourstria, Finland and Sweden. ing Switzerland admission to due to join in January and the six Eastern Europeans and the European Union have decided to start legal moves others waiting in the wings, the EU leaders know they to hold a national referenhave to work out how the dum on the membership issue, a spokesman said Sununion will work in the future with as many as twice its

Under the Swiss constitution citizens can initiate a draft law if they collect the signatures of 100,000 registered voters in favour of the

·Five out of eight pro-EU organisations voted Saturday night to initiate the referendum which would call for "Switzerland to participate in the process of European integration with a view to joining the European Union."

The text will be presented to the government Monday and its authors hope to gather the necessary signatures starting in February or March and completing their task before October 1995.

On Dec. 7, 1992 voters in a referendum turned down Association and the EU.

Switzerland's entry into the European Economic Area, a free trade zone which includes member countries of the European Free Trade

Angolan minister wants interim

LILONGWE (R) — Angolan Deputy Foreign Minister

"African countries... Angola while we wait for

in force since Nov. 22, two days after the Luanda government and Jonas Savimbi's UNITA rebels signed peace accords in the Zambian capital Lusaka formally ending the

Fidel Castro.



Pakistan generals discuss Karachi violence

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) -Pakistani generals met Sunday in Karachi amid growing alarm over a deepening security crisis in the city where at least 76 people have been killed in the 11 days since troops pulled out.

Defence Ministry officials said the Joint Chiefs of Staff had been due to discuss defence and internal security issues, but gave no details.

The meeting followed talks Saturday between President Farooq Leghari, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Sind Province Chief Minister Abdullah Shah and military and intelligence chiefs.

The Karachi branch of Ms. Bhutto's ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has demanded the removal of Mr. Shah. accusing the chief minister of failing to maintain law and order in Sind province. of which Karachi is the capital. Local PPP leaders voted for Mr. Shah's dismissal at a party meeting Saturday, par-

Ms. Bhutto was also expected to face pressure on the issue from the opposition during a parliamentary debate scheduled for later Sun-

ty officials said.

A police spokesman said a gunman shot and wounded Mohammad Saleem, 25, in eastern Karachi Sunday, but no killings were reported following the deaths of four

other people Saturday. The spokesman said police

had arrested five people suspected of planning to kill an assistant sub-inspector of police and had seized three assault rifles from them.

Shootings involving rival factions of the ethnic Mobajir National Movement and militant Sunni and Shiite Muslim sects have rocked Pakistan's commercial capital since the army ended its 20-month deplayment there on ivov. 30.

Officials say more than 650 people including 85 policemen, have been killed and hundreds more wounded in Karachi this year.

This mounth's mounting death toll has depressed the Karachi Stock Exchange and prompted increased demand for the dollar, dealers said.

Cuban exiles march, chant against Castro

MIAMI (R) — Up to 50,000 Castro." Cuban exiles jammed the streets of Miami and its famed Orange Bowl Stadium Saturday in a giant tally to hanging out and blood pouring out of its mouth. Underneath was written "the solu-

si, Castro no" packed Miami's Little Havana district waving red, white and blue Cuban flags and sporting T-shirts bearing slogans like "Fidel: the hour of your trial

Police said the demonstration was peaceful and there were no arrests.

"The demonstration shows we will not be tired. We are not going to cease until Castro is exposed for what he is - a criminal," Cuban exile leader Jorge Mas Canosa told reporters at a rally in the Orange Bowl which ended

the demonstration. Southern Florida has an estimated 600,000 Cuban-Americans and the marchers were determined not to miss the opportunity to show the 34 summit leaders just how much they hate Cuban leader

"I wish we could chop him up little by little into pieces like ground beef," said Aida

Federico Gonzalez, another demonstrator, held up a mock severed head of Castro speared on a wooden pole with one of its eyes

"This is my dream," he shouted. "The dream of all Cubans. A multi-coloured quilt was

draped around the stadium in memory of 10,000 Cubans the exiles said had been murdered by Mr. Castro's gov-

ernment.

"I am ready to take up arms to liberate our country' shouted Isidro Montano, self-described guerrilla who claimed to be one of six survivors from a bloody battle with Castro forces in the early 1960's.

"We want the presidents in Miami to liberate Cuba from this Communist tyranny by

military force," he added. Reinforcing the exiles' plea for military intervention was a giant white banner attached to the front of a van reading "Mr. President, what about freeing Cuba? Are you chick-

"We don't want American

spill to get rid of Castro, Just let us fight and we will get rid of that dictator in 72 hours."

Some of the protesters curned simple white wooden crosses in memory of loved ones who died at sea while trying to escape from Cuba by crossing the treacherous Straits of Florida.

Meanwhile, leaders attending the Summit of the Americas agreed Saturday to hold a spannit in Bohvia in early 1996 on the issue of sustainable development, a White House official said.

"There will be a follow-up summit on sustainable development in Bolivia early in 1996." White House Environmental Policy Director Kathleen McGinty told reporters.

Ms. McGinty said there would also be ministeriallevel meetings to work on this summit's pledges on a host of initiatives encompassed by the term "sustainable development", such as international cooperation to protect the environment, the promotion of the use of renewable energy resources and ensuring universal access to educa-

tion and health care services. "In that sense this summit is like no other one before because it has produced a commitment to sustainable development," she added.

passing a winter evening in ant empty apartment, won best film and best director awards? at the Golden Horse Film? Festival, the Chineses language equivalent of Holly wood's Oscars. John Chen, a Chinese-American known for her roles in Twin Peaks and The Last Emperor, won begin actress for Red Rose, White-Rose. Tony Leung from 1 Hong Kong won best actor for his role in Chungking Express. Both are Hong. Kong films. Wang Po-Sen and Elain Jin captured the best supporting actor and actress awards for the Taiwanese movie A Confucian Confusion. Vive L'Amour, the second feature film from 36-4 vear-old director Tsai Ming-1 Liang, share the Golden Lion Film Award at ther Venice Film Festival with: Macedonia's Before The Rain. In an interview, Traical said Faiwan's 7-year shifte. from virtual dictatorship tore democracy has infuseds Taiwanese films with news 'vitality and creativity." Be There have been gradualn? changes." Tsai told the Associated Press. "In the 23 past, our creativity was sty-by mied by political and socials restrictions." The Golden # Horse Awards are regarded # as the equivalent of the I Academy Awards for Chinese-language films outside mainland China. Last and year, the Golden Horse Festival established a special award for mainland Chinese movie makers or actors, in life recognition of the growing detente between China and Taiwan, which China regards as a renegade province. Bul no special award was presented this year because none of the contestants won more than two thirds of the 19% referees' votes. Taiwan only ! allows mainland Chinese F films to be shown if mainlan- § ders make up less than half of the principal actors.

Bardot breaks pledge not to return to Saint-Tropez

SAINT-TROPEZ. France 76 (AFP)-Sex kitten turned animal activist Brigitte Bardot has returned to Saint-Tropez six months after pledging not to set foot again. in the chie French Rivier resort where she made her " long-term home. According to witnesses, the former superstar actiess was spotted Saturday walking down a Saint-Tropez street with " friends. Bardot, who has lived in the Paris region since ? quitting the town in June amid a public row with its I Mayor Jean-Michel Couve; * returned to spend Christmas H with husband Bernard d'Or- el mal at her villa, the local Var-Martin newspaper re- [ported. Bardot had quit the i? town after the local council of hosted a hunters' congress, 57 vowing "never to return" pi while Couve was still mayor. -32

Bride convicted of helping groom rape daughter

RIVERSIDE, Cahi. (AP) -

A woman was convicted of the

failing to notity police that 43 her 7-year-old daughter had 13 been braten and raped by the woman's AIDS-infected.20 grown at their wedding reecption. The child tested 📳 positive for the HIV virus. She and her mother are not being identified by the ti Associated Press to present 31 the child's privace. The M 22 year-old woman was con- in victed of felone child en 2 dangerment and being an accessors to tupe. She faces a 73 maximum sentence of nearly at Seven vears, Frank Bridges, A 😤 former intende probation officer, was sentenced in § lune to is vents in prison after admitting to five felong commis related to the Jan. 15 2 attack Mr. Binlges, 43c. whose surmane is different? from his stepdanghter's, re-? fused to testaly against his wife at her mad On the couple's wedding day, Mr. Brubes bard the child to ** bedroom, promising to res ward her with a dollar. Onto there, budges locked the door, hit the parl and raped; her Hearing his sister screams, then seeing here bloodstained dress, a illyear old brother dialed 911 Junes heard a tape of the conand the mother's voice sereaming, "don't, don't" let before the line went dead Prosecutors claimed the mother hung up and refu-

to mener when the operation

I called back

Japan heads for 2- party system

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan appears to be moving toward a two-party system similar to the U.S. and British models with the formation of the New Frontier Party (NFP). which is out to topple Premier Tomiichi Murayama's coalition.

The NFP, a powerful conservative alliance merging 10 parties and groups, is now the both houses of parliament, al Democratic Party (LDP)

conservative LDP.

in June.

because of policy differences among the three ruling par-

June between the LDP and its longtime rival, Mr. Murayama's Social Democratic Party (SDP), along with the smaller moderate New

Farty Sakigake. Since coming to power,

Mr. Murayama, chairman of the SDP, once the longtime arch rival of the LDP, has adopted pragmatic policies, dropping the Socialists' longheld pacifist and anti-nuclear

principles. NFP lawmakers say the scandal-tainted LDP, whose 38-year grip on power ended in August 1993, has failed to reform, and that the SDP is

Most politicians of the Remakers of the Japan New Party had bolted from the LDP shortly before general

July last year. Members of the NFP say the new party is a "party of reforms," but analysts say there is no major policy difference between the NFP and the coalition, which has completed political and tax reforms and is now striving for changes in the administrative

The leadership of the NFP is dominated by former LDP members, including its Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, a powerful kingmaker who is reputed to be the real power behind-Mr. Kaifu in the new grouping.

The inauguration of the NFP came amid moves by some members of the SDP to disband it in favour of the creation of a third major political party of "democratic and liberal" politicians. Several SDP members of

parliament have threatened

to leave the party if it refuses

to join the planned third

force.

force

George Chikon said in Malawi Sunday African states should send an interim peacekeeping force to his war-weary country until the United Nations decided to send troops.

told Reuters.

19-year long civil war.

plans to send 7,000 peacekeepers to Angola, has delayed their deployment until it is sure both sides are serious about peace. The world body relies on the war rivals to report ceasefire violations.

lobby leaders at the Summit of the Americans to help free Cuba from communism. Protesters shouting "Cuba

is nearing".

should get together with the Angolan government and send a peacekeeping force to larger U.N. force to verify the peace process," Chikoti A shaky ceasefire has been

The United Nations, which

Lopez Blakeslee. "I left blood spilled" screamed taxi driver Pedro Castano. "We Cuba 32 years ago. I still have have enough of our own to nightmares in my sleep about

U.S. senators arrive in N. Korea to discuss accord

SEOUL (Agencies) — Two influential U.S. senators arrived in North Korea Sunday to discuss the controversial nuclear accord reached between Washington and the North in October.

Paul Simon, a Democrat from Illinois, and Frank Murkowski, a Republican from Alaska who has criticised the accord, left by air from Beijing aboard a U.S. Air Force plane — The first American military aircraft to land in North Korea since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, South Korea's Korean Broadcasting System re-

implemented, South Korca's Yonhap News Agency said in a report from the Chinese capital.

They said they would also discuss efforts to recover the remains of U.S. servicemen histed as missing in action from the Korean War, in which the United States backed South Korea, still a staunch ally.

According to Yonhap, the senators said they had meetings scheduled with several senior North Korean officials but would only be told after arriving in the capital, Pyongyang, if they could meet de facto North Korean leader Kim Jong-II.

Sen. Murkowski, who will soon become chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, has expressed reservations about the October accord in which the United

He questioned the U.S.

compromise on its demand that North Korea let international monitors inspect two off-limits nuclear waste sites which could prove whether or not it has produced nuclear weapons before receiving economic and political benefits.

In Washington last week, U.S. and North Korean officials held what a senior U.S. State Department official called "cooperative and constructive" talks on establishing liaison offices in each other's capitals. Deputy Assistant Secretary

of State Thomas Hubbard

said Friday that teams from

the two countries would meet in the first quarter of next year to look at office sites. He did not predict when they would actually be estab-Mr. Hubbard said that during the talks U.S. officials emphasised the importance

after objections from Pyongyang, a diplomat in Scoul

Other U.S. politicians, including former President Jimmy Carter, who visited the North in June, have already crossed both ways by road though the DMZ. North Korea has said it

would hold a regular Sup-

reme People's Assembly ses-

sion next week, and asked South Korean businessmen to delay a planned visit to Pyongyang, press reports said here Sunday.

"North Korea has asked for the visit to be put off until early next year, saying they will be busy with the Supreme People's Assembly session next week." an official of Samsung husiness group told the respected Seoul daily Dong-A.

The unidentified commany official was in contact with North Koreans in Beijing to prepare for a trip by a 1thmember delegation of the leading business group, to be headed by Kang Jin-Koo. president of Samsung Electronics Co.

Tuesday, after South Kotea last week gave the green light to six firms, four conglomerates and two footwear makers, to visit the North. South Kerean memitors of North Korean news said the

lar sessions of the assembly annually, in April and in December. The spring session handles the budget, while the winter

session approves appointments and passes new laws. They noted that there had not been any official word about the apcoming assembly session, which is usually pic ceded by two weeks' notice.

Nor had there been any indication as to whether the rubber stamp parliament might elect the late President Kim II-Sung's son and designated successor. Kim Jong-II, as president during the upcoming session, they said.

States said it would arrange of a dialogue between North second biggest Japanese poliheading for a split. the supply of new nuclear A feud is reportedly brewtical force with 214 seats in But LDP Secretary Generand South Korea, and raised ing between Mr. Ozawa and reactors worth \$4 billion to the issue of North Korean al Yoshiro Mori said in a North Korea's official Koformer Prime Minister Tsutothe North. missile exports that have long against 295 held by the Libertelevision programme Sunrean Central News Agency mu Hata, who lost to Mr. In return, North Korea troubled Washington. day: "We have changed. We reported their arrival and Kaifu in the NFP leadership agreed to freeze its existing NFP leader Toshiki Kaifu, will not repeat what we did in said they were greeted by Other issues raised inelection held Thursday. The delegation originally nuclear programme which cluded terrorism, troop levels a former prime minister, de-Song Ho-Gyong, adviser to Mr. Ozawa and Mr. Hata the West suspects was deplanned to enter the North clared at the inaugural cerealong the demilitarised zone the Foreign Affairs Commitwere close allies and co-"The NFP has many forsigned to make atomic (DMZ) which separates the mony that the new party tee of the Supreme People's mer LDP lawmakers as its leaders of the Renewal Party. weapons. two Koreas and human would challenge the govern-Assembly, and other offibut Mr. Ozawa reportedly members. I know what they ment of Socialist leader The Clinton administracials. manoeuvred to back Mr. are going to do," Mr. Mori He said Washington would Murayama, an ally of the tion, in the opening round of They are due to travel to Kaifu in the NFP leadership said. what could become a battle also eventually like to open a Seoul Monday for talks with The NFP comprises four transit route to North Korea "It (the coalition) should South Korean officials, inwith the new Republicancore parties: the Renewal across the DMZ. The heavily be replaced if it fails to carry dominated U.S. Congress, Most analysts expect the cluding President Kim North usually holds two regu-Party, and LDP splinter cut reforms," said Kaifu, Young-Sam and Foreign fortified area is now closed to NFP to face rough sailing in has defended the accord group, the Buddhist-backed all travel except under special who defected from the LDP Minister Han Sung-Joo. against senators like Murits efforts to force an early Komeito, the Democratic kowski and others who say it dissolution of the 511circumstances. The senators told reporters Socialist Party, and the refor-· The two senators had origi-Kaifu, who served as prime before leaving Beijing their member lower house. is flawed. mist Japan New Party led by nally hoped to fly back from minister from August 1989 to The prime minister, the visit was aimed at improving Sen. Murkowski has said former Premier Morihiro North Korea across the DMZ only person authorised to dishe did not want the agree-November 1991, said in a relations between Washing-Hosokawa. after crossing over it into the ton and North Korea and ment scrapped but that "we solve the lower house, has television interview Sunday North by road but were should have a good hard look that Mr. Murayama's coalirepeatedly rejected opposifinding ways to ensure the obliged to change their plan newal Party and some lawnuclear accord is faithfully tion cabinet would collapse tion calls for a new election.

The coalition was formed electrons for the lower the coalition was formed the lower than the low

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READY TO GO: A Russian tank unit waits in a field near Chermen, North Ossetia, some 100 kilometres from Grozny, the capital of the breakaway Chechen Republic. The

Russian armoured units Sunday began their advance on Chechenya (AFP photo)

Ireland close to 3 party 'rainbow coalition'

DUBLIN (R) — Ireland is moving towards a three-party "rainbow coalition" government with a strong left-wing element after a breakthrough in talks to end a month-long political crisis.

Leaders of the main opposition group Fine Gael, the Labour Party and the small Democratic Left grouping agreed late Saturday to hold formal talks to forge a new government.

They agreed to drop the Progressive Democrats Party because a four-party coalition was thought unworkable and to proceed with the first multi-party coalition in more than 40 years.

Labour Party sources said

it was hoped that the three would have a government in place Wednesday, almost a month to the day since Labour pulled out of the previous coalition government with the Fianna Fail Party.

A joint programme and a cabinet are expected to be announced on the eve of the first anniversary on Dec. 15 of the Anglo-Irish Downing Street Declaration, which charted the way to an unprecedented era of peace in Northern Ireland.

Irish, British and Northern Irish politicians had feared that the political vacuum in Dublin since the collapse of former Prime Minister Albert Reynolds' government would to launch the second phase of the plan, which is aimed at launching new all-party talks to take advantage of ceasefire by Northern Ireland's warring guerrillas.

The new coalition has been

popularly dubbed a "rain-

bow" because it incorporates

most of the colours of Ire-

slow attempts to end the 25-

year political and sectarian

conflict in Northern Ireland

ment will clear the way for a

delayed Anglo-Irish summit

Formation of a govern-

at a critical phase.

land's political spectrum in an untried left-right alliance. Labour leader Dick Spring, whose party pro-

voked the current crisis, was

to have talks Sunday with Fine Gael leader John Bruton and Democratic Left leader Prionisias De Rossa on a joint policy programme.

Mr. Bruton, who calls himself a Christian Democrat, is poised to become prime minister, replacing acting Premier Albert Reynolds. with Mr. Spring his deputy and foreign minister, political sources said.

The Democratic Left is a two-year-old party with Marxist roots which has championed workers' rights and violently opposes the taxing of unemployment benefits and redundancies caused by the streamlining of state en-

Blast on Filipino plane kills one, injures 10

TOKYO (R) — A harrowing mid-air explosion on a Tokyo-bound Philippine Airlines Jambo Jet killed one person and injured 10 Sunday. A Philippine Muslim' separatist group claimed responsibility for the blast.

The 307 people aboard the Boeing 747 endured a onehour dash to an emergency landing on the island of Okinawa with a gaping hole in the floor of the airliner's main cabin and pieces of carpet and other items blowing

A spokesman for Japan's Ministry of Transport said the explosion happened beneath a seat in the economy-Lass section of Philippine Airlines Flight 434.

The plane was carrying a total of 287 passengers and 20 crew from Manila to Tokyo via Cebu in the central Philippines where the last passengers boarded. The dead passenger and the injured were, claiming responsibility for the

NEW DELHI (Agencies) —

Prime Minister P.V. Nara-

simha Rao has told reformist

Finance Minister Manmohan

Singh to refocus the budget

to pacify voters who angrily

rejected their Congress Party

in state polls, news reports

simha Rao summoned Mr.

Singh Saturday to review the

electoral rout in three out of

the four states that went to

polls in November and earlier

"The prime minister... told

Dr. Singh that while he fully

backed the liberalisation

pragramme, efforts would

··· · to be made to package it

cetter, to convince the poor

that they would be looked

After," Delhi's Asian Age

A senior Rao aide con-

firmed Dr. Singh was asked

now-to focus more on con-

trolling inflation which eco-

nomists say could reach

double-digits against four per

Mr. Rao himself survived

the first salvo Saturday from

his Congress Party critics.

some of whom asked him to

step down as Congress presi-

dent after the ruling party

suffered a crushing defeat in

the states of Andhra Pradesh.

Karnataka and Sikkim. It was

running neck and neck in the

Congress's top policy com-

mittee also rejected opposi-

tion demands for snap par-

liamentary polls following the

The most stunning defeat

came in Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. Rao's home state, where

the opposition Telugu Desam

Party (TDP) wooed the

electorate with promises of

pre-bidget meeting with con-

sui A groups last week the

current inflation rate was

causing considerable

hardship to people and

should be brought down.

Dr. Singh admitted at a

cheap rice and prohibition.

cent last year.

tiny Goa state.

newspaper said Sunday.

Prime Minister P.V. Nara-

said Sunday.

this month.

Japanese, most of them tourists, the spokesman said. Six of the injured were directly hurt by the blast. mainly suffering light burns to the hands and feet, and four passengers became ill from fumes and the emergency descent.

In Manila, a man claiming to represent Abu Sayyaf, Muslim fundamentalist group blamed for a two-year-long series of bombings and kidnappings in the Philippines southern islands, claimed responsibility for the blast.

"We are Abu Sayyaf group. We explode one plane from Cebu," the man said in Broken English in a telephone call to a Western news agency in Manila.

Speaking in an excited voice the anonymous caller said the group planned other attacks on Philippine aircraft. "No one has contacted us

India's year-on-year infla-

Trade union leaders who

met Dr. Singh Saturday said

he was more receptive to

"I have never seen Dr.

Singh so defensive and

accommodative to the

labour's demands," M.K.

Pandhe, secretary of the

Communist-led Centre for

India Trade Unions told Reu-

The Economic Times

quoted Dr. Singh as consider-

ing the revival of sick indus-

tries, a move that will require.

Dr. Singh, the pilot of Indi-

a's three-year-old economic

reforms, has cut a deep

swathe through the country's

state-controlled economy.

encouraging foreign invest-

ment, and cutting state sub-

isidies to farmers and indus-

union leaders was Dr. Singh's

revelation that he was

opposed to extending

sovereign guarantees to fore-

ign power projects," the

Times said, referring to the

government's recent guaran-

tee of minimum returns to

the U.S.-based Enron Com-

pany's proposed power pro-

Meanwhile, the Indian

opposition is buoyant after

winning stunning victories in

crucial state elections and has

begun preparing to mount a

serious bid for power in par-

liamentary polls two years

Jubilant opposition leaders

say the countdown has begun

for Mr. Rao's Congress (1)

Party after its shocking defeat

The regional Telugu De-

sam Party crushed the Con-

gress in Andhra Pradesh, Mr.

centrist Janata Dal (people's

Party) stormed to power in

Karnataka, pushing the Con-

Rao's home state, and the

in the southern states.

"What surprised the trade

substantial state funding.

their demands than before.

tion was 9.43 per cent in the

week to Nov. 19.

incident and the claim from Manila remains unconfirmed as far as we are concerned," said a spokesman for the Okinawa police.

The blast happened when the plane was flying at 9,100 metres (30,000 feet) over Minami Daito Island, about 300 kilometres east of Okinawa, with about three hours of flight time left to its finaldestination of Tokyo.

The Filipino pilot immediately made an emergency descent to 3,030 metres (10,000 feet) and headed for the nearest airport.

The plane landed at Okinawa's Naha Airport, 1,000 kilometres south of Tokyo, at 11:45 a.m. (0245 GMT), one hour after the explosion, with emergency vehicles standing

Passengers praided the pilot and crew for their composure and said there was a loud cheer when the plane touched down.

gress to a humiliating third

ever showing in two known

strongholds.

It was the Congress' worst-

Both the Telugu Desam

and Janata Dal are members

of the National Front, which

had been almost dormant

since the Congress returned

to power in New Delhi in

June 1991 with Mr. Rao, 73.

as India's ninth prime minis-

mer Premier Vishwanath

Pratap Singh declared Satur-

day that the poll verdict

would give a fresh lease on

life to the National Front,

which is allied to the Com-

the rejection of the Congress

at the centre," said Dr.

Singh, who was prime minis-

ter of a National Front gov-

ernment which ruled India

for 11 months until Novem-

results will give a terrific

boost to the opposition," said

spokesman Krishan Lal Shar-

ma of the main opposition

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP.

The BJP, a parish for the

rest of the opposition because

of its penchant for Hindu

revivalism, put up a comman-

ding show in Karnataka, in-

creasing its strength in the

legislature from a mere four

The result was a morale

booster for the BJP, which

lost power in three Indian

states, including the most

populous Uttar Pradesh in

the northern plain, in critical

elections in November 1993.

December ballot in Andhra

Pradesh and Karnataka was

seen as a curtain raiser to

elections in five more states

in February next year and the

parliamentary elections due

A jittery Congress lead-

in the summer of 1996.

The staggered November-

Indian People's Party).

"There is no doubt that the

"We now look forward to

Janata Dal leader and for-

Japan's Kyodo news agency said passengers reported there was a 30-cm (one-foot) wide hole in the floor of the plane's economy class sec-

The passengers said pieces of carpet and other small items were blowing around the Cabin and many of them feared there would be another explosion and the plane would grash.

"I was afraid we would have to land without landing gear, and was relieved as soon as I saw the landing gear come out," Kyodo quoted a passenger as saying.

Other passengers told Japan's NHK public television there was a "strange smell" just before the blast.

ership met here hurriedly late

Saturday and urged party

members not to lose heart

but to brace for the "chal-

lenges that lie ahead in elec-

Of the four major states

which go to the polls next

year, two are governed by the

Janata Dal. while Sharad

Pawar, a Rao baiter, heads a

Congress government in the

sprawling western state of

In both Maharashtra and

nearby Gujarat, the BJP is

tipped to pose a serious chal-

Newspapers warned that

the 109-year-old Congress.

India's oldest political party.

would have to get its act

together quickly if it wants

The Congress is out o

power in eight out of 12

major Indian states, includ-

ing Uttar Pradesh, Bihar.

Tamil Nadu and Andhra

Pradesh which account for

223 seats in parliament's

A Congress revival, even

die-hard supporters admit, is

almost ruled out in these four

reversal in the 1995 state

elections would spell doom

Congress sources say any

The only consolation for

the ruling party is the rift

between the BJP and the

secular National Front and its

The National Front came

to power in December 1989

after edging out the Congress

with the backing of the

mutually antagonistic BJP

and Communists. The

National Front and Com-

munists are opposed to the

BJP as much as the Congress.

some opposition parties and

try to somehow retain power

(in New Delhi) in 1996," one

opposition leader said. "But

there is a good chance he will

"Rao may make deals with

lenge to the Congress.

regain lost ground.

elected lower house.

for the party.

Communist allies.

Maharashtra.

tions to (five states)."

"There was a strange smell and moments later a loud explosion. For the next few minutes I couldn't hear the announcements," a Japanese male passenger said. Pressure mounts on Indian budget to bear poll rout

murat Nivazov — trade in

pack up early to vote for the candidates of the Democratic Party of Turkmenistan, the only authorised party. It is chaired by Mr. Niyazov, who has been officially granted the title of Turkmenbashi or "chief of the Turkmen."

And an election organiser

ghbours live in Azerbaijan and Armenia and in Tajikistan — and that is why we all support our president," said election official Nadezhda Smirnova.

pected a turnout of 98 or 99 per cent of the 1,808 district voters to back parliament Chairman Sakhet Myradov, the only candidate on the ballot.

food and refreshments so people feel as though going to vote is a holiday," she explained.

Bosnian Serbs hijack U.N. fuel convoy, ban armed escorts

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serbs were reported Sunday to have seized a U.N. fuel convoy at gunpoint and banned peacekeepers from escorting aid convoys in what a U.N. spokesman called a new organised campaign of harassment.

Colonel Jan-Dirk Merveldt said a Danish convoy of fuel tankers was hijacked Saturday by Bosnian Serb soldiers. terming it "highway robberyand inflamed banditry," and a French fuel convoy was turned back outside Sarajevo after it was refused entry. Serbs also seized two fourwheel drive vehicles containing satellite communications

equipment from Dutch U.N. troops at a Serb checkpoint near Sarajevo Saturday night, U.N. officials said. The U.N. mission has received no fuel supplies for

Saturday it would have to curtail many of its activities such as anti-sniper patrols and escorting food aid unless it got fresh supplies soon. However Col. Merveldt told Reuters Sunday the Bosnian Serb authorities had said the United Nations mission would no longer be allowed

three weeks, and warned

to escort aid convoys through Serb-held territory. As a result of this the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which delivers aid to civilians trapped by the war had told the U.N. Protection Force (UNPRO-FOR) it would no longer run convoys to Sarajevo and be-

to provide armoured vehicles

sieged Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia. Describing the new Serb restrictions as unacceptable. Col. Merveldt said of the

latest bout of harassment:

"We are dealing with an organised campaign."

The latest actions came just as the Serbs appeared to be softening their hardline stance towards the U.N. mission, after the Serb leadership signalled earlier in the week it was ready to resume talks on an international

peace plan. On Saturday the Serbs freed nearly 200 U.N. troops held hostage after NATO air strikes against Serb targets three weeks ago, and allowed a food convoy into besieged Sarajevo.

The typically confusing signals coming from the Serbs, who control 70 per cent of Bosnia and are being offered 49 per cent under the peace plan, again underlined the problems faced by the U.N. mission in carrying out its

Col. Merveldt said three Danish petrol tankers part of a large convoy, were approaching Sarajevo Saturday when Serb soldiers blocked their path with cars and pointed rifles and rocketpropelled grenades at the U.N. personnel.

mandate.

"They made it clear the U.N. tankers had to follow them." he said. An armed soldier was placed in each truck to "reinforce the point," he added.

drove the tankers away and released unharmed five of the seven Danish soldiers, leaving two still detained. "It is highway robbery and

inflamed banditry," Col.

The Serb soldiers later

Merveldt said. The Serb blockade on fuel deliveries to the U.N. mission threatens to bring the

peacekeeping operation to a

WINDHOEK (R) — Nami-

bian President Sam Nujoma,

whose ruling SWAPO party

looks assured of a two-thirds

majority in parliament after

the first post-independence

polls, pledged Sunday to con-

sult the nation before chang-

No individual will decide

whether the constitution

needs changing, all Nami-

bians will ultimately decide,"

the guerrilla leader-turned-

ing the constitution.

humiliating halt in Bosnia, U.N. officials said Saturday. "Some 10 days of diesel and some three days of petrol at full consumption rates remain for UNPROFOR." one

British, French and other peacekeepers were patrolling on foot in the eastern enclaves of Gorazde and Srebrenica, making peacekeeping duties even more dangerous than usual, and cutting back radio communications, heating and hot water.

The Ukrainian contingent's fleet of armoured vehicles in Sarajevo was out of action and French antisniping patrols would have to be cancelled Sunday, Col. Merveldt said.

Kris Janowski, spokesman for the UNHCR, said Saturday the fuel blockade also hit Serb residents of Sarajevo.

"These restrictions are totally counter-productive and only serve to hurt (the Serbs') own people as well as the rest of the community," Col. Merveldt said.

U.N. Commander for Bosnia Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, who was blocked from visiting the Muslim enclave of Bihac in north-west Bosnia Saturday by rebel Serbs in Croatia, was due back in Sarajevo early Sunday afternoon, officials

Gen. Rose, who had planned the visit to boost the morale of the hard-pressed Bangladeshi U.N. garrision there, had indicated he might try again to get to Bihac Sunday after being told he needed permission from the Bosnian Serbs.

Meanwhile, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, signalling a cautious shift in German defence policy, has said Bonn might deploy fighter jets over Bosnia if they were needed to help defend retreating United Nations troops there.

Mr. Kohl said Saturday evening that an appeal for help from Germany's allies with troops in Bosnia might prompt Bonn to consider its first military engagement abroad since the end of World War II.

His carefully worded answer to a ZDF television question came after Bonn went through embarassing verbal twists last Wednesday to side-step controversial NATO bid to line up Germany's Tornado fighter jets for a possible mission.

Mr. Kohl's new-found readiness to consider military action emerged only after a European Union summit in the German city of Essen at which he and all other EU leaders swore that weapons could not solve the Bosnian conflict.

But it marked another small step forward in Bonn's gradual progress towards the greater military tole that its NATO allies have expected of its since German unification in 1990.

"If the soldiers of our friends — the French. English, Spanish or Danes who are there as U.N. soldiers need to be pulled out and get into a tough situation, then it would be a new situation and we would have to ask where we could help with our planes," the chancellor said. "That could be, under cer-

tain circumstances, a deployment of our Tornado jets to, for example, help defend allied soldiers who are retreating.

Turkmens have no choice in parliament

vote

ASHGABAT (R) — Turk menistan's voters went to the polls to elect a new parliament Sunday, lured by the promise of free gifts and refreshments at voting centres, but with only one candidate on the ballot in each consti-

In the gas-rich former Soviet republic, 50 candidates were standing for 50 seats in a new professional parliament which would replace the Communist-era legislature of 175 deputies and sit in permanent session.

At the Sunday Bazaar outside Ashgabat on the Kara-Kum Canal — renamed in honour of Turkmen President Saparhand-woven rugs, silver and gold, car parts and camels was continuing as usual in the morning.

But traders said they would

Mr. Nizayov, 54, enjoys ultimate power in this Central Asian state of just over four million, tolerating no -opposition or independent press. He also chairs a Council of Elders which harks back to the Turkmen's tribal past.

"Of course we will vote after the market closes — we will vote for the president with great pleasure," one young cattle trader said "Our whole village will vote for our candidate. He's great," the trader said.

At the polling station near the city's old airport, local election officials said residents were happy to vote for unity and stability in an unstable region.

at the Turkmenberlesik Carpet factory in Ashgabat said people would vote for secur-"We know how our nei-

Ms. Smirnova said she ex-

"We provide presents,

wances paid to them while they were boycotting parliament, but said those were "recoverable by the appropriate authority.

president told reporters in with more than 70 per cent of

opposition parties.

the resort town of Swakop-

Namibia leader pledges referendum

The two-thirds parliamentary majority, if confirmed when final results are announced Monday, gives SWAPO the right to untion that it believes favours

Postal ballots were still being counted Sunday, but political analysts said that ment.

the vote going to SWAPO, compared to 22 per cent for i opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), the ruling party's grip on

power had tightened. SWAPO, which fought a ilaterally amend the constitut ... 23-year guerrilla-war against South Africa for control of this country of 1.5 million people, was expected to have 51 seats in the new parlia-

"What we need to do now is

Major rules out integrating Euro-sceptics

LONDON (AFP) — Prime Minister John Major Sunday ruled out a speedy reintegration of the nine Euro-rebel Tory MPs into the Conservative parliamentry group, while his Employment Secretary Michael Portillo called for a "healing pro-

"The route back for those colleagues who voted against the government is very simple. It is to support the government they were elected to support, persistently and consistently... by giving their loyalty to the party they belong to." the premier said in an article published in the

Mail on Sunday. The rebel Tory MPs were excluded from the parliamentary party on Nov. 28 after they defied the government by abstaining in a vote on increasing Britain's European Union dues, which Mr. Major had turned into a vote of confidence.

Mr. Major's remarks in the Mail On Sunday were harder than the comments he made in an interview with the BBC Saturday, when he took a more conciliatory line. He said of the rebels: "On some issues they've taken a different view. I very much regret that. I hope now we have got those issues behind us, adding: "My door is always

Mr. Major did not rule out the possibility of holding a referendum on the political future of Europe and the single currency, which Eurosceptics consider would be the best way of healing rifts within the party. Meanwhile Mr. Portillo

one of Mr. Major's most anti-European ministers, called on the party to pull together. "We have to put our party back together. There has to be a healing process. There has to be a little bit of toler-

to cool the thing down.' According to the most recent opinion polls, published in the Sunday papers, the opposition Labour Party is continuing to repeat the benefit of the internal divisions within the Conservative Par-One poll, carried out Fri-

day among 1,007 voters by the ICM institute and published in The Observer, put Labour 27 points ahead of the Conservatives at 53 per cent, against 26 for the Tones. It also found that more

than 60 per cent of those surveyed were in favour of calling early general elections and that 70 per cent wanted a referendum on Europe.

Unlike Mr. Major, who has not made his position clear, the Labour Party leader Tony Blair has endorsed the idea of a referendum in several press interviews.

Dhaka court says parliament boycott unconstitutional

ance," he said on the BBC.

DHAKA (AFP) — The home of a Bangladesh judge was bombed Sunday, seriously injuring one person, after he and another judge ruled the opposition's boycott of parliament unconstitutional The two-member high

court bench, comprising Judges Kazi Shafiuddin and Kazi A.T. Monwarddin, ordered the opposition to ioin the next session of the National Parliament.

The opposition has been boycotting parliament since March to push its demands for elections under a neutral caretaker government.

Later Sunday one man was seriously injured when five bombs werre hurled at Judge Monwaruddin's house. The judge, who was unhurt, suggested the attackers were possibly an aggrieved "party or an individual."

The court did not rule on a separate petition asking the opposition to return allo-Petitioner Anwar Hossain

Khan, a lawyer, filed a writ in June accusing the opposition of not fulfilling the pledge made to thier constituents by staying away from parliament over the past nine months.

Moudud Ahmad, parliamentary leader of the opposition Jativa Party (JP), told reporters as he came out of the court that the verdict would have "no effect" on their threat to resign from parliament on Dec. 28 and instead might bring it forward, "frustrating today's decision."

"We are very disappointed

and it is unprecedented in the judicial system anywhere," he said, alleging that the verdict was delivered hastily without hearing the defendants submission in full. Mr. Ahmad, the only de-

fendent present, said they would immediately appeal to the Supreme Court seeking an immediate stay of the ver-He said "it is unfortunate

flict between the judiciary and parliament." The three major opposition parties have warned that

all 153 opposition MPs will

as this could lead to (a) con-

resign en masse from the parliament Dec. 28 unless their demands are met. The opposition has been

boycotting parliament since March to push its demands for elections a neutral caretaker government claiming that any elections under the government Prime Minister Khaleda Zia cannot be fair. It has also announced a series of anti-government

protests including a blockade of railways, roads and waterways on Dec. 24. The government has rejected the demand calling it

unconstitutional. Opposition leaders said they had their doubts about getting justice in this court because Judge Monwaruddin was a former district chief of Mrs. Zia's ruling Bangladesh Nationlist Party (BNP) and "deeply involved" with a

political party. The opposition has already submitted a petition to the court expressing doubts about the judge, even though earlier, similar petition was rejected by Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmad. Legal sources said further petitions

were expected,

Bride convicted of helping groom . इ.स. हे हैं अपनी हैं है

By Waleed M. Sa'di

حورين تابع يومية عربية سيلب مستثلة تصدر بالإسطيرية عن المؤسسة المسعمية الأرسية

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nen deserve better

THERE SEEMS to be no end to the misfortunes of women, Abortion, female circumcision, rape, physical abuse, sexual harassment, sexism, social and moral restrictions: The list goes on endlessly, and threatens ஈரைக்க's psyche and their well-being from birth. It's impossible for women not to experience at least one of · the liteny of woes facing them. Despite tremendous efforts by women's movements all over the world, no tangible progress has been achieved. In international meetings and conferences, participants and experts address cultural specifics instead of focusing on the root cause. Inadequate education, societal and moral traditions and patriarchal cultures all contribute to morners's suffering. The societies may differ — Westara, Muslim, Asian - but there's still suffering.

In this part of the world, for example, a woman can its executed by a male relative or beaten to death if her family suspects that she had sexual contacts or just a relationship outside the bond of marriage. This can happen even in cases of rape! In Africa, the genitalia of some women are circumcised to decrease sexual desire and prevent them from becoming sexually promisenous. In some poor countries women are married at a young age to men their families choose. Sfigg, they are not consulted. In developed countries, The the United States, oppression is more sophistirated. Women in these countries often face sexual harassment, being battered by a spouse or mate, or

Then there are the social and moral pressures that women have to put up with just because they are ਾਰਜ਼ਰਣ — the stigma of divorce, the choice and Teonsequences of abortion and the aftermath of rape. Women are victims, culprits and the ones who should tag for everybody's misic're all at the same time. Religious and moral fury shake. the earth if a woman is accused of having an abortion or committing edultery, but indifference prevails when hundreds of women get raped and beaten up every day.

The Cairo conference on population should have hackled most of these issues. But instead, participants delved into heated discussions over abortion. The failure of such conferences to reach a consensus to ानुस्पर्वते अल्लाबन 's status and thus the society's devalorment might be due to the intolerance that exists among nations and individuals. The West accuses the East of women's repression and patriarchaldominated concepts. The East points to the corruption und mioral delinquency that plagues western societies. The conflict of whose ideology is better and who should have the final say turns ambitious meetings into battles. It's no wonder little progress has been

made to abolish inequalities between sexes. Perhaps a fresher look at the issue as a whole is needed. Whether through circumcision and segregation in the East, or rape and sexism in the West, repression and inequality are wrecking the lives of millions of women every day, every minute, everywhere. In 1995 an international conference on women is expected to be held in Beijing. The failure of this conference might be a failure to humanity. The issue is more than abortion or rape or segregation. It is the way the world at large perceives women and their role in score.

PRESS COMMENTARIES

CCLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday criticised the continued mission of Rolf Ekeus, the U.N. envoy charged with supervising the elimination of Iraq's mass destruction weapons for saying that Iraq still possesses the potential to produce biological weapons. During the past Dur years Mr. Ekeus and his teams have been systematicaldestroying these weapons in Iraq, leaving nothing behind them except the Iraqi scientists who can produce the neapons, said Tareq Masarweh, If Mr. Ekeus means that the potential lies in the presence of the scientists themselves, we wonder if he wants them to be exterminated as well, said the writer. The United States tops the list of nations which continue to produce biological and nuclear weamons, but the United Nations is doing nothing against it and nothing to stop human rights violations in Bosnia and other regions of the world, said the writer. He said that Mr. Exeus is making the claims to justify the perpetuation of the embargo on Iraq, to appease and satisfy the United States' desire and thus causing further suffering and starvation to the Iraqi people. The United Nations, added the writer, has its hands bound because it falls under U.S. influence and therefore it is not expected to end the injustice done to the Arab people of Iraq, said the writer, He said that the Islamic summit conference in Casablanca will not help put an end to the Iraqi tragedy because many of its participants serve as part of the coalition aligned behind the United States in its genocide against the Iraqi population.

THE NOBEL Peace Prize has been given to the Israeli leaders and President Yasser Arafat, but peace itself has not materialised on the ground, said Mohammad Kawash, a writer in A! Dustour. Judging from Israel's actions, its leaders are far from being intent on granting the Palestimians wider powers or pulling Israeli forces from the escupied Palestinian land, so no genuine peace can be established, said the writer. Until now Israel has not committed itself to full withdrawal and continues to hold on to its traditional policies of repression, mass punishment and aggression, which are clear signs it is not eager for peace, noted the writer. Despite Mr. Arafat's deals with Mr. Racin and his government in Oslo and Cairo, and despite the joint deciamion of principles in Washington, nothing concrete has materialised on the ground, leaving the future of the Palestinians in the balance, he added. The writer said That there can be no alternative to a return to concerted Arab stands and coordination between the Arab parties involved in the peace process so that a comprehensive settlement can be achieved.

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HUMAN RIGHTS FILE

Universality vs. individuality of human rights

THE 46th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that fell on Dec. 10, was yet another occasion to assess how the cause of human rights fares across the world. Of course real consensus on such a judgement continues to be elusive because the issue of human rights is still seen with double vision and applied with double standards.

Judging by the United Nations' reports on human rights violations across the world. I dare say that the promotion and protection of human rights is anything but satisfactory. Since the scope of human rights is so comprehensive and deals with every aspect of life. I believe that it still does not command priority consideration, in its totality, by most if not all nations of the world. Every country, or group of countries, has their own sets of priorities in the realm of human rights. Developing countries still regard their economic development as a higher priority objective than. for example, civil and political rights. Last year's Vienna WorldConference on Human Rights attempted to harmonise different nations' perceptions of human rights, but succeeded only in a rhetorical sense. Poor states continue to downgrade many aspects of human rights as relatively insignificant in comparison with what they view as the more

pressing economic and social rights of their peoples. What also lessens the quest for universal respect for human rights, in all their dimensions, is the international mechanism of applying these rights. United Nations human rights bodies that have to cope with and monitor the application of a variety of human rights, ranging from civil and political to economic, social and cultural, are manned in part at least by members who belong to countries which are notorious for human rights violations. The human

rights experts that make up the composition of U.N. human rights committees or commissions are elected by U.N. or treaty-member states and there is considerable horse trading between them. It is not always sure that human rights considerations alone weigh heavily on the conscience of the electing governments.

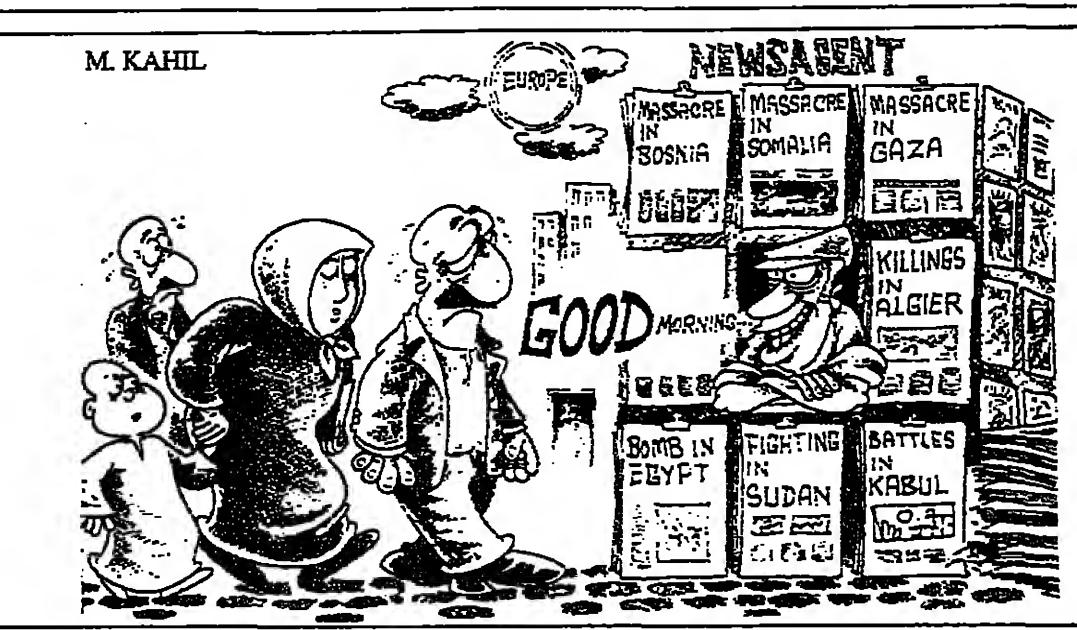
Also relevant is the fact that international initiatives target only gross and systematic human rights violations. There is no problem with focusing the international attention on blatant violations but limiting them to systematic ones automatically excludes many serious human rights violations of another nature. As long as grave human rights violations which are not repeated enough to be classified as systematic continue to be outside the purview of international concern, many countries will continue to take advantage of this and persist in abusing even basic human rights of individuals.

The interest in human rights is waning rather than increasing. The gap between the developed and developing countries continues to hamper a really determined effort to put an end to human rights violations. There is no way to convince poor countries suffering from a variety of deprivations to start becoming interested in the kind of human rights issues that appear to concern industrial countries. I have always thought that proper and effective promotion of human rights can begin only when the economic gap between the rich and poor nations of the world is bridged, if not totally, then substantially. Otherwise, we would all be engaged in fervent hope that would

change nothing but leave human rights where they are. I personally have never been a true disciple of this proposition but have moved in that direction of late, after

sensing the futility of entertaining the opposite thesis. It so happens that economic development inggers a series of human rights developments, starting with education, health and economic power. Meanwhile, the quest for respect for human rights in underdeveloped countries continues to enjoy lip service and be protected by human rights experts elected by these very countries for the primary purpose of defending themselves from accusations and suspicions as well as for the promotion of their own perspectives on this subject.

As for the developed countries of the world, one can also detect an ebb and flow phenomenon affecting human rights. There is hardly a nation, even among the most advanced ones, that enjoys a perfect record on human rights. Many countries have discovered that the enhancement of one set of human rights has often meant sacrificing another. Take for example the experience of the United States and other western countries where the rights of the accused have developed and extended so much that they began to interfere with the effective administration of criminal justice. It became obvious along the way that a point could be reached where the collective human rights of a society would clash with individual human rights. This conclusion has in turn consolidated the thesis of the poor nations that individual human rights must not be allowed to progress to the point where the national rights to security and safety are prejudiced. What all these national experiences portray is a picture of trial and error in the development of human rights that has not crestallised sufficiently enough. No wonder most states sing their own separate tunes when it comes to human rights and make repeated attempts to reinterpret the human rights standards to suit their own situations and conditions.



Elections that might tip the balance in Turkey

WOIK.

By Martin Woollacott

EVERY DAY crocodiles of schoolchildren whisper their way through the solemn stone hall which houses the body of Kemal Ataturk, and then carry on, with almost equal reverence, to the adjoining buildings where his motor car and other of his worldly goods are displayed. Highover Ankara, the great mausoleum still fulfills its function as the central shrine of faith in secular Turkey, and in its destiny as a modern, European nation.

But, in recent months, the school visits have increased as those who hold fast to the Ataturk legacy react to the newly-strengthened forces of Turkish fundamentalism, forces which, growing quietly over a decade or more, burst into the open last March when the Refah Party won power in local elections in Istanbul and Ankara, and in a score of lesser cities and towns. Twenty-two byelections this month will test Refah's strength again, but whether they will be held is now in doubt after a constitutional decision that would have handed the party a further advantage in the contest. It is an index of the anxiety over Refah that the main governing party, the True Path Party, is scurrying about for a means of denying them victory.

The Refah, or Welfare, Party is the successor to previous small religious parties in Turkey, but, unlike them, it commands a fifth, or even more, of the popular vote. In a general election, it could do weil enough to take power as a member of a coalition — or it is within the bounds of possibility that it could take power on its own. Turkish political rules are such that 30 per cent of the votes can give you the government.

It would be hard to overestimate the importance of such a shift, if it should ever come. It could mark the end not only for secular Turkey. but for the whole idea that the future of religion in the Islamic World will ultimately be the same shrinkage into the private sphere as in the West. If, after fran and Algeria, Turkey should fall. the story of modernisation in the Muslim World in the old well. sense, some would say, would be over. A Refah victory could also lead to internal strife and an army takeover, as in Algeria. There are in particular, to the point streets in Turkish cities where shops with the rival mottos

"Sovereignty belongs to God" and "We are following you, Father" (in reference to Ataturk) glower at one another across a few vards of muddy cobbles. Yiolence, in a small way, is already part of the scene: one outspoken journalist has died, others are under permanent guard.

There is a more sanguine view which, if it turned out to be true, would be equally a turning point. This is that Refah will eventually get its turn in power, but that it will exercise it with relative restraint and, having Islamised the political agenda to some extent. would be ready to leave office when the voters grasp — as they undoubtedly would over time — that Refah has no magic solution to the country's problems.

This, unsurprisingly, is what Refah wants thhe world to believe. But it is also the hope of some sophisticated Turks, who believe a reassertion of the country's Islamic identity is a necessary part of what is called the Turco-Islamic synthesis.

If they are right, then the signpost would point in the opposite direction for others Muslim countries as well. It would proclaim that there is, after all, a middle way between resurgent Islam and Western-style' democratic politics. "It would be comforting if that turned out to be true," said a Turkish journalist, "but, if it was your country, would you like to take the risk?" The idea that Refah, if it ever achieved power, would throw away the

key, is widespread. Refah's political style does not reassure. On the practical level, it is based on handing out benefits and acting as a surrogate welfare state for the poorer part of Turkish society. This is a formula that has won adherents for fundamentalism from one end of the Islamic World to the other, but it is, at bottom, no more than bribery. Refah also offers Turkish voters an ingenious but nonsensical formulation which links Islam with the prosperity they naturally crave. By denying Islam and trying to be Western, the argument goes, Turkey has, in some unspecificu way, wasted money. So, a return to Islamic ways would be a return to prosperity as

Outside parlimentary politics. Refah's unmistakeable purpose is to build up a prarallel structure, in education where that of the state can be subsumed. In this they have

benefited from concessions made over the years by mainstream politicians to the Islamic constituency, notably those allowing a modest system of schools for the training of clerics to expand monstrously, far beyond any conceivable need. The products of these schools, together with other young men and women who have been guided in their formative years by living in Islamic hostels, although attending normal state schools and coileges, now form a numerous cadre in almost every profession, that is loyal to Refah and is a ready instrument of social control and political

The most comforting view

of all is that Refah will never

advance beyond a certain

point and, like extremist parties in Western Europe, will always be confined to the margins. But the answer to the riddle of Refah is made more difficult by the fact that its rise is part of a slow multiple crisis — economic. military, and political — in Turkey. The cities and towns are full of migrants from the countryside, adding to the numbers of a youthful and increasingly resentful poorer class struggling to get by under conditions of high inflation and unemployment. The gap between rich and poor may not in fact be larger than in the past, but the consciousness of it is differnet. Television and shopping malls, the whole business of modern consumer display, have seen to that. As in many other countries, what is economically sensible and what is politically wise point in opposite directions. The measures urged on Turkey, like cutting public spending and privatisation of state enterprises, will, at least in the short term, worsen the situation of ordinary people making them easier targets for the Refah pitch. Those measures are also identified with Europe, since they are part of the country's preparation for customs union, due in 1996, making it possible to equate the Western connection with the troubles of

ordinary folk. Turkey, in addition, has a war on its hands in the Kurdish south-east of the country, involving it in huge expenditures, and causing devastating social changes that, again, hand advantage to the fundamentalists. Turkey's mismanagement of its Kurdish problem is plain. Unable, because of its visceral opposition to anything even

hinting of separatism, to encourage the growth of a moderate Kurdish leadership, it has found itself with no political counter-weight to the extremist PKK, or Kurdistan Workers' Party. The ruthless contest between the PKK and the Turkish army has ended by stripping much of the south-eastern countryside of its population, which has retreated from its razed villages to the bigger towns. There Refah is waiting to scoop in the protest votes of angry and traumatised people, who are also guided by a PKK which wishes to threaten the Turkish government not only with a military impasse, but with the political disaster of a fundamentalist triumph.

The unsettled row over the by-elections arose because the country's constitutional court ruled that the latest waves of refugees, now unable to vote in their old villages, had to be re-registered as voters in their new homes. The decision altered the terms of the contest, since the main governing party had been hoping to scrape by in some seats with the votes of soldiers and civil servants in the region. As long as the refugees were out of the picture, that might have done the trick and restricted the number of Refah victories. But, with their votes counting, the picture seemed very different. No clearer illustration of the intersection of the Kurdish crisis and the fundamentalist trendency can be imagined. The political parties in Tur-

key seem content, nevertheless, to manoeuvre around the rising Refah, using it in their games with each other. Right and left are split into two pairs of parties, which alternately contemplate and repudiate merger. The equanimity with which they regard Refah suggests that they believe it can be kept in quarantine indefinitely - or at least that they see many stages ahead before it might become necessary to combine to deal with it.

They may well be right. Yet intelligent people in Turkey in the reflective professions — in the universities, in iourmalism, among the nonfundamentalist religious swing from reassurance to alarm in the course of a single conversation. It can't happen here, they seem to say. Or can it? Ataturk may not yet be turning in his grave, but he must at least be stirring,

The Guardian

New Euro-Arab school for managers ready to go

THE EUROPEAN Commission is to provide an European Currency Unit (ECU) 8.3 million grant for the creation of a Euro-Arab Management School (EAMS) in the Spanish city of Granada.

The project comes as part of the European Union's policy of improving overall relations with the Arab World and contributing to its development. The new school will be the first important officially sponsored institute created in the framework of Euro-Arab relations.

Current economic developments in the Arab World, and particularly the domestic policies, deregulation and privatisation and external policies of liberalisation and the encouragement of direct foreign investment, are creating the need for a major increase the supply of suitably trained Arab managers. Existing institutions, and in particular the public sector universities, do not meet these needs.

Assistance for such a programme of institutionalised management development in the Arab World would be provided by a specially designed Euro-Arab Management School.

The school will train Arab teachers of management and will develop curricula and teaching materials for a diploma in management which will be granted by local Arab management training institutions in conjunction with the EAMS. EAMS will also be able to train Arab teachers of management within a special MBA programme followed by practical teaching experience in European manage-

ment schools. High potential Arab and European managers would also follow the MBA programme to qualify for positions of management responsibility in Arab and European companies and organisations

and in Euro-Arab joint ven-

The Spanish government will also contribute to the project with the provision, furnishing and maintenance of a suitable building in Gra-

Granada has been chosen for the EAMS because of its unique, symbolic importance in Euro-Arab cultural history the commission is to grant a subsidy of ECU 2.3 million to cover the running costs of the institute for the first two years and will place ECU 6 million in an Endownment Fund, interest from which will go towards meeting fu-

The contribution to the

ture costs.

Endowment Fund would be reimbursable under certain circumstances. Contributions from European and Arab companies would be welcome and can be expected once the school is running and its services are being provided to a 🥮 network of Arab management training institutes as well as to Arab and European companies. With the interest received from the Endowment Fund, plus income from student fees, executive training and research. as well as income from services to network partners, the EAMS is planned to become self-financing.

The new school will ultimateiy be the heart of a network which it is hoped will have centres in all countries in the region, including Jor-

The feasibility and design study for the project has been carried out on behalf of the Commission during an eight month period by a team of experts from the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD), a consortium of high-level European business schools and European companies.

European Community News-

LETTERS

Bureaucracy at the U.N. To the Editor:

After reading the interesting atticle by Mahor Y. Massis, "Collective security — a stringent necessity that could become reality" (Jordan Times, Dec. 4, 1994), one wonders what has been accomplished in the L.N. and its subsidiary agencies in their years of existing and in what

cost to the people of the world. We know that wars accomplish nothing except destruction. So why do men continue to fight. And at what financial cost when the money could be used in far more beneficial ways for mankind?

I have worked with and alongside UN agencies in the Middle East and Africa. Bureaueracy is rampant and we all know what bureaucracy does. Perhaps Schumacher had a better philosophy when he wrote "Small is Beautiful" What has been accomplished in Bosma or Somalia"



Burhara Johnston, P.O. Box 910254, Amman,

The Jordan Times wereomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names ... can be withheld only upon request and under special) circumstances. Letters are subject to echting. The new-maps er is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts

Rural south — taking refuge in the past, escaping a fast approaching present

By Dr. Hala Fattah

In 1989-1990, I worked as a researcher at the Queen Alia Fund (QAF), the social welfare agency working in southem Jordan. As a result of my work, which involved several iourneys to the rural south, I amassed a number of impressions about popular history and social customs that remained with me when I left for the United States; it is to these impressions that I turn when recounting my initiation into volunteer work in Jordan.

I must explain that as a historian, I have always believed that texts are the primary records of any civilisation, the written codes of mankind's successes and failures. Texts come in different sizes, shapes and colours; they can be stone fragments etched with cuneiforms, literary biographies extolling fourteenth-century Amirs or Ottoman documents registering land and taxes. In the hands of an imaginative historian they can convey the vast sweep and complexity of a particular society at a given period of time. However, they remain a partial record of human endeavour for, regardless of the tonnes of material stacked in imperial museums, libraries, courthouses and land registeries,

(Continued from page 1)

resented by foreign ministry

Deputy Director Biran, just

back from Amman, where in

the morning he inaugurated

Jordan's red, white, green

and black flag outside the

seaside hotel brought traffic

to a halt as passers-by stop-

Charge d'affaires Ramez

Ooussous said: "We will start

functioning from tomorrow.

"I hope we will find offices

(Continued from page 12)

of reaching agreements;"

said Ghassan Khatib, direc-

tor of the Jerusalem Media

and Communications Centre.

Because of the unofficial

nature of the participants and

discussions, Mr. Khatib be-

lieves, it was possible to

reach a certain level of frank-

ness that had previously been

only whispered about or dis-

cussed privately among deci-

phere at least as far as the

participants are concerned,"

Mr. Khatib said, stressing

that the most that can be

hoped for now is that the

discussions in the seminar

would create debate in the

media and perhaps with the

"It created a better atmos-

sion makers.

"We shouldn't be hopeful

the Israeli embassy.

ped and applauded.

human experience cannot be compressed in literary texts alone. It must be lived. And this is where the social workers of the QAF have it all over the historians, for they record life in all of its compelling immediacy, quite as a journalist would record fastbreaking news.

Working with the QAF administration and staff made me sensitive to the cultural development of the rural regions. It also made me realise how every aspect of the present is based on the past in rural society and how history, remembered, recreated and reinvented, forms an integral part of the ordinary lives of the people in the

In Maan, for instance, I was confronted with a vibrant old lady dressed in a black long dress (madraga) who contemtuously dismissed the bread baked by her daughterin-law; it had not been baked in a taburn, or saj (over) and was therefore inferior. As it turned out, the old lady had a distinctive family history. She came from a landed family in Al Shobak; her family used to possess fig and olive trees. They grew wheat on many dunums of land. Everything they are was grown on their property. However, as a result of some land disputes between various clans and

Mr. Biran told AFP the

Israeli embassy would be

"operational from Monday,"

and hoped that Israel would

"soon" name its ambassador

nomination, but an important

He added Mr. Rabin and

Mr. Peres "are giving the

numerous candidates for the

Diplomatic sources said

Friday the two men could not

post a lot of consideration.'

"This is not a routine

to Jordan.

question.

Jordan, Israelopen embassies

sub-clans in her ancestral vil- -- elderly sheight of a local tribe. lage, the old lady had been in a house teeming with chilleft bereft, alone and powerdren. They came in all shapes less, forced to move in with and sizes. Some gravely her daughter-in-law because offered us Turkish coffee, she had lost everything else. and tea. Others curled up next to their grandfather and Fortunately she had some resources left. For one thing, sat watching us with frank and unblinking curiousity. she had her memories. They We asked the sheikh about all centred on the incomparathe history of his tribe. He ble bread baked in her anceswas silent at first and then he tral village. As I sat next to recited parts of Buckingher, the old lady began to ham's travels from memory. describe the smell and aroma The experience was unsetthat emanated from freshlytling at first, for here was the baked saj bread, and all at authentic representative of a once her language took on tribal culture prefacing his clarity and resonance, the words became sharply answer with long, verbatim quotes from an orientalist's enunciated, the rhythm was selective, and distorted, hiscontrolled and the memory tory of the tribes of Transjorundiminished by time, loss or dan. It made no sense at first, dispersal. Yes, the Amir and then, as the sheikh con-Abduliah had passed by way of Maan to Amman in 1920, tinued, I began to see the but the memory of that event logic of his answer. was blurred in her mind. It He saw himself as the inwas something that had hapheritor of a long and valuable

> historian. Every tribe possessed one, if not several. Oral historians memorised the genealogy and the lineage of the tribe and collected the folk poetry. If the sheikh combined literary facts with oral representation to relate the origins of his tribe, he was only conforming to the best tradition of his tribe. And if he mixed myth with legiti-

mate evidence, where was

the harm? History, after all,

old Marwan Muasher, former

peace team spokesman, as its

ambassador to Israel. Israel

has yet to nominate an en-

The two embassies would

have a staff of about 20 -

four to five diplomats and the

rest administrative and secur-

Jordanian Foreign Ministry

officials attending the cere-

mony in Amman were

Ahmad Hasanat, Ahmad

Mubaideen , Mohammad

Khalidi, Samir Masarweh

and general coordinator of

the peace negotiations

Mohammad Shahankari.

ity staff.

tradition, that of the oral

had very little to do with truth. It had to do with power and legitimacy. That Buckingham mentioned the sheikh's tribe in the nineteenth century only gave added credence to the tribe's influence, its prowess in war and its longevity over time. Most of all, his history attested to the tribe's physical presence in nineteenthcentury Madaba, a fact of supreme importance to the tribal elders, for whom any scrap of evidence was significant when it came to establishing tribal sovereignity over land. Everywhere, in fact. we

encountered people with idealised histories of their individual or communal pasts. In Mafraq, an important sheikh echoed his contemporaries by opining that the "old days" were better. People were self-sufficient; if you didn't make it or grow it yourself, you asked your neighbour or a member of the hamoula (village clan) for the item. Rarely did you go to the town sug: all the items required were either produced at home or bartered with neighbouring communities. Nowadays, the sheikh went on, people had become dependent on the state for everything. When we asked him what brought about the decline of a self-sufficient

economy, he immediately declared: "Education! Education is the cause of all our ills. Education made the tribesman or farmer into a bureaucrat and allowed him to look down on agriculture or pastoralism." For him, education led to other social ills as well, amongst which he enumerated total permissiveness (ibaha) and social irresponsibility.

thority and replaced the traditional leadership of the community with a more urban-based municipal government, he was not the only disaffected person in the town. On a visit to Za'tari. one of the smaller centres outside Mafrag which OAF representatives described as 'our model village", we met an old sheikh, dressed in his thawb and barefoot. He turned out to be a real mine of information. Joined by his son, who ran the Za'tari community centre, he at once began to extol desert life. "Thirty years ago," he began, "we were much happier." This stunned even the most hardened QAF resear-

chers. "How is that possi-

ble?" one of them asked the

sheikh. "Thirty years ago,

you were illiterate, there

the larger hamoula could not While the sheikh in Mafrag solve. People saw the clan as may have had reason to complain, for the state had taken their corporate identity which is why when a girl married, over his once-paramount auher permission was rarely taken in the choice of her bridegroom. The tribe knew best; and because girls were considered as part and parcel of the tribal or village identity, their betrothal signified a cementing of that identity. It was the hamoula that was important, and not the indi-

were no doctors in the entire

region and your harvests

were so poor, you sometimes

went hungry for months on

The sheikh was obstinate.

Even though raids and coun-

ter-raids were the custom,

and even though you could

wake up one morning and see

all your flock stolen, he in-

sisted life was better. There

were no social problems that

end." he went on saying.

there were doctors in the village that more than made up for the wonders of modern medicine. These were the "Arab doctors" who practised traditional medicine. Even today, a number of them still make the rounds of the community, practising the art of leeching, cauterisation by knifes, burning by means of hot coals and using a mixture of herbs to alleviate

everything from the common

Moreover, he went on.

cold to pangs of child-birth. As a result, the sheikh claimed, "almost everyone was cured". He even showed us the sears on his leg where he was burned with hot coal.

This was a rather spectacelar end to an altogether revealing week of oral testimonies. In the end, it was clear that while every complaint contained a kernel of truth, the recreation of an idealised past in which harmony, order and trust was the order of the day and served as legitimate

reinforcement against reality. a panacea against the present. Recalling better times instilled pride in one's family and lineage, but it also went beyond that. Maybe, just maybe, these representatives of an older tribal tradition were also telling us, the epitome of the urban-based cu.ture of Amman, that they sail! possessed abundant strategies of communal resistance to the all-encompassing, faceless modernity that was fast transforming the lives of ordinary men and women of southern Jordan and leaving them useless in its wake.

.The writer was a professor of history at Georgetown University Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies. She contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

managers

ro-Afab

AY, DECEMBER 12, 1994

By Waleed M. Sa'di

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4: 2: 12: 12: 13: 15: 1 e technic 3 AMS 10 11 ---gri, gill 1 . . . 287、1. "表 2." . : ¿ ka ... ::--graphs to the a geografia (se er in each 1.11 i marail Carrelle 1. 1, 2, 3 i speciale · · [j. 7 \$3, 47% to

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The government has also set up a technical committee

agree on who to appoint as ambassador. Seminar voices optimism on future unity government of both sides.

He believes that the

Palestinians and Jordanians

are caught in what he de-

scribes as "paradox" in the

interim period of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. "We cannot reach independence until we define our definition of final status, Mr. Khatib points out. "We have to know exactly the nature of the Palestinian enti-

ty that we aspire to." "If we are thinking of a confederation with Jordan then we have to agree with Jordan first before presenting a proposal to Israel for this final status structure," Mr.

Khatib said. This will need a political will from both the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships which many of the participants privately believe is still

pened at a distance, some

time far away. But baking

bread, now that was an

altogether different matter. It

was of supreme importance.

It signified life, land, family,

home. And bread baked on

saj, no less! It had meaning in

a life that had lost all mean-

ing; it brought back the times

of plenty and security, the

self-sufficiency and the inde-

In Madaba, I had a similar

Mr. Biran told AFP that for the moment the embassy

will only be able to issue

collective visas and no indi-

being discussed in Israeli-

established diplomatic rela-

tions on Nov. 27, will ex-

change ambassadors in about

six weeks. Israel has named

Yaacov Rosen, head of the

Jordanian desk at the foreign

ministry, as charge d'affaire.

Mr. Qoussous will run Jor-

dan's embassy until ambassa-

Jordan has named 38-year-

dors are exchanged.

Jordanian negotiations.

vidual ones as the issue is still.

Jordan and Israel, which

experience. We had met an

pendence.

"I know that we as influential politicians and intellectuals can do 50 per cent of the work required for a strong cooperation between us but we can only hope to influence the leaders into adopting our vision," one participant who asked he not be identified told the Jordan Times.

A Palestinian participant who also asked he not be identified, said that Palestinians recognise that they, as opinion makers, are duty bound to try and influence the Palestinian leadership into dealing with Jordan pragmatically.

"We recognise the failing from our side and we hope

that we can become a pressure group on the leadership for the purpose of unity which is to the benefit of both

sides," the participant said. But despite this pragmatic tone that is privately expressed by the participants, publicly at least most of them were not ready to allow their hopes to be burnt by the political realities of the more tense official relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships.

"This is the first time that non-governmental groups meet to discuss such a sensitive issue and it was very successful," Dr. Abu Jaber

"We were only hoping to raise the dust and we were successful in creating interest in our common future," he

Although the participants have now ended their discussions, plans are already underway for specialised meetings on the political. economic, legal and security aspects of the future relations which will also be jointly organised by the World Affairs Council and the Arab Economist Society.

By David Storey

WASHINGTON — With President Bill Clinton weakened and Republicans running Congress, the United States is caught in a policy bind on Bosnia heightened by its promise to send in troops if needed to rescue trapped

peacekeepers. Mr. Clinton has to juggle two key objectives: to maintain Washington's leadership in a unified NATO at a time when the alliance is threatened, and to meet loud domestic political demands for military action to aid Bosnia's Muslims without involving U.S. ground troops in

Thursday's announcement that Washington would provide up to half the troops needed to cover any withdrawal of U.N. peacekeeping forces from the former Yugoslav repbulic was seen largely as a response to the threat to NATO unity.

combat.

Janusz Bugajski, director of East European Studies at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, saw the announcement on troops as "public relations for the benefit of the alliance."

He added: "They realise what it would mean to pull out the peacekeepers — it could be a costly operation. would mean a lot of U.S. troops and it would be a long-term thing that could come back and haunt Clinton later in his presidency."

Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said on Friday it was Washington's "hope and expectation" that the need would not arise to withdraw U.N. troops under U.S. and other cover.

But Defence Secretary William Perry said the United States had always helped its allies, adding: "If we did make an exception it would seriously weaken NATO and would certainly destroy our position as a leader of NATO."

Mr. Perry and other U.S. leaders have been scrambling to confirm Washington's commitment to its leadership role in the alliance in recent weeks as serious splits opened with France and Britain over Bosnian policy.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke was among U.S. national security leaders talking down the threat to the alliance on Friday. "NATO is not in crisis. Bosnia is," he said. "Strains among member states in NATO caused in part by Bosnia are unavoidable in the aftermath of the cold war.

However, differences with the allies have become increasingly apparent since the Republicans ousted Mr. Clinton's Democrats from control of Congress in the Nov. 8 elections.

Congress, outraged at Bosnian Serb attacks, had already forced Mr. Clinton to back off the neutral policy that European allies and the United Nations had tried to follow in handling the 21/2year conflict.

It has forced Clinton to end U.S. implementation of the arms embargo on the Bosnian government — by cutting off funds for the operation — and is pressing for unilateral lifting of the

embargo early next year. Incoming Senate Republican majority leader Bob Dole is crusading for an end to the impartial approach complete-

Clinton caught in Bosnia policy bind

Bill Clinton

ly. He wants the U.N. force withdrawn and the Bosnian Muslims, who outnumber the Bosnian Serbs but are out-

gunned, armed. Mr. Dole trumpeted this policy on a trip to Brussels and London last week, creating confusion about both who was running U.S. policy and just what it was.

Columnist Charles Krauthammer summed up public fears over this approach on Friday: "Once we order out the United Nations we assume responsibility for the Bosnian civilians. Once we arm the Muslims we assume responsibility for the conduct of the war. And once we begin air strikes, we become a combatant."

Sensitivity over involvement in foreign conflicts, always high in the United States since the Vietnam War, was raised by the abortive mission in Somalia. which ended in humiliation and casualties for U.S.

Under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Talal Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein

The Clinton administration has said its goal in Bosnia is to minimise civilian casualties and stop the war from

spreading in the Balkans. But frequent changes in its approach to stopping the fighting have angered European allies. Its refusal to commit troops to the U.N. operation

has disappointed allies who believe only the presence of the superpower would intimidate the warring factions sufficiently to edge them towards a peace deal.

Mr. Perry said on Friday the decision to prepare a contingency rescue force did not change the U.S. decision not to become involved in Bosnian combat and not to send in ground troops on a long-term basis except to help monitor a peace agree-

"That policy has not changed." he said.

MPs criticise Israeli embassy opening

(Continued from page 1)

the Israeli embassy and its activities.

Speaking in reply to queries concerning the collapse of the five-storey building at Nazal district and the explosion of the gas cylinder facility near Al Hussein Sports City district, Acting Premier Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh said that investigations were going on into the two incidents in order to

determine their real causes. He said that the government has instructed the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Talai Ureigat to reexamine the whole system of gas distribution and storage of cylinders.

to determine the cause of the collapse of the building in Nazal district. "Once the information has been collected about the two incidents the government would provide

their details to the House,' Mr. Rawabdeh promised. Regarding a report of contaminated mothers milk the acting premier said that the Health Ministry has began an investigation into the case and was gathering information about the polluted breast

Abdullah Akaileh, an IAF party member, protested against a report in a local weekly in which the paper allegedly published addresses of prostitutes in Israel so that Jordanians can contact them. Mr. Akaileh said the publication of such advertisements or reports would severely harm the Jordanian society. "This action is a flagrant" violation of public life in Jordan and requires immediate attention by the govern-

ment," said Mr. Akaileh. He urged the public to boycott the unnamed weekly magazine and all others that adopt similar policies.

Several proposals were put forward by a number of deputies concerning such issues as opening agricultural roads, building of schools and opening post offices. These were all referred to the specialised committees to discuss their feasibility.

At the end of the session the House speaker announced that Parliament's next session will be held Wednesday.

On the occassion of the end of the year 1994 The National Music Conservatory/ Noor Al Hussein Foundation presents

in cooperation with

Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein



ELLA LEE, soprano ARTURO ROMANI, tenor accompanied by THE ORCHESTRA OF THE NATIONAL MUSIC CONSERVATORY MOHAMMAD OTHMAN SIDIQ, conductor

Thursday, 15 December 1994 - 8:00 p.m. The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre

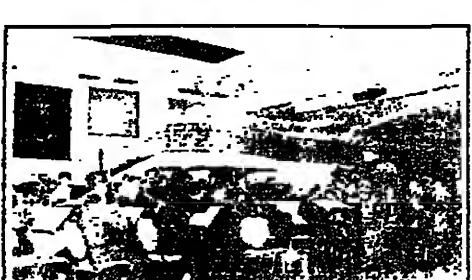
In the program pieces by Verdi, Donizetti, Mascagni and others. In addition to a piece by Jordanian composer Dr. Abdul Hamid Hamam. Ticket price: JD 7



WALEED HOWRANI in a

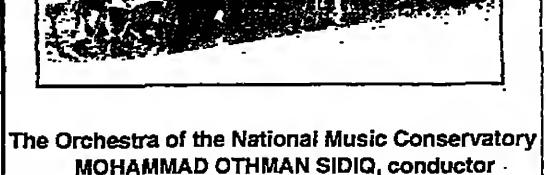
Piano Recital Gelalian, Joplin and others.

Friday, 16 December 1994 - 8:00 p.m. The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre The Program includes pieces by Schubert, Chopin, Ticket price: JD 7



in cooperation with

Friends of the Liver Patients Society



MOHAMMAD OTHMAN SIDIQ, conductor

A Night of Viennese Waltzes Saturday . 17 December 1994 Philadelphia Hotel - Royal Ballroom

The program includes Strauss's Die Fledermaus. The Blue Danube, Voices of Spring, Tales From Vienna Woods,

Emperor Waltz and Radetzky March. Ticket price: JD 12 (including canapes)

● National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

• Freddy for Music, tel. 692696 ● Philadelphia Hotel, tel. 607100 ● Royal Cultural Centre, tel. 661026 ■ Music Box, tel. 815745 ♣ Romero, tel. 644227

A STATE STATE Opposition parties stage rally

> opposition not to pursue active opposition to the Kingdom's peace treaty with Israel. The Monarch said that any move to that effect "will not be tolerated" and that the

(Continued from page 1)

decision of the majority. Tension between the government and the opposition, which is led by the Islamists, rose after the peace accord was signed on Oct. 26 and the Islamists started attacking the accord in mosques and attempted demonstrations which were banned by the government. The Islamists' efforts to rally support for aborting the accord, however, proved fruitless when the treaty was approved by the Upper and Lower Houses of

minority has to accept the

Parliament. Peace opponents said that the authorities gave them the green light to proceed with their silent demonstration provided they restrict the

number of participants. "This is a symbolic sit-in," said one participant, claiming that "the street would not be large enough to accommodate peace opponents had

ticipate." "(Israelis) are murderers, occupiers and do not fear God; they follow us wherever we go and will not rest until they dominate the whole world," said Huda, a demonstrator.

they all been allowed to par-

IAF spokesman Hamzeh Mansour described the opening of the embassy as "an intellectual, political and economic invasion," and charged that the embassy was "a hide-out for spying on this good country."

Asked whether the opposition has any plans for opposing "normalisation ties" with Israel, Mr. Mansour said that he has faith in Jordanians to reject the "imposed moves

towards establishing normal relations with the enemy." "The opening of the embassy coincides with the eighth anniversary of the Palestinian uprising. This only comes to prove the enemy's intentions to provoke the people who for the past eight years have supported their brothers in the occupied territories and watched the bloodshed and sacrifices they offered as a price for their freedom," said

tic Party. The opposition pledges to resist all forms of normalisation with Israel through boycotting the Jewish state economically, intellectually and politically until "they pick up and leave," Mr. Mansour said.

"We call upon our brothers

to boycott the Zionist enemy

and... the Israeli embassy,"

said a statement issued by the

IAF earlier.

Tayseer Zabri, head of the

Jordanian People's Democra-

Tickets available from: Alahlia-Abela Superstore, tel. 688481 Babiche, tel. 661322

linton announces pan-American free trade agreement

IIAMI (R) — The leaders 1 1 34 western hemisphere naons Sunday approved setng up the world's largest The trade zone by the year 1005, and cracking down on ार्द्रागिckers and corrupt politi-

in st The decisions came in a m a apid-fire first day of talks at slae first summit of the Amercas in 27 years — one that S. Secretary of State Waringuinost productive summit he Christopher hailed as the

"It is a real landmark day our hemisphere, a reissance for our hemishere." Mr. Christopher said

n D a news conference. It was left to President Bill linton to shed some of the olitical battle gear he has Thad to wear recently and announce the biggest accoms lishment of the carefully Choreographed summit — a historic agreement to set up a western hemisphere tarifffree zone by the year 2005.

Standing under a bright blue sky in the garden of the Vizcava Palace, an Italian renaissance-style villa on the edge of Biscavne Bay where the summit is being held, Mr. Clinton said the agreement would create the world's larget trading market.

By 2005, the zone would cover 850 million people and stretch from Alaska to Argentina.

Mr. Clinton said this agreement would succeed where other efforts at pan-American economic integration had failed.

"We have got a highlydetailed timetable," he said adding talks would begin next month. He said the trade agreement "will produce more jobs, higher income and greater opportunity for all of our people."

The agreement may have

been approved quickly at the first full session of the threeday summit but its details were hammered out in months of behind-the-scenes negotia-

The leaders also agreed to take coordinated action to stop bribe-taking politicians and to crack down on drug cartel money-launderers by confiscating and freezing their assets.

Some Latin American leaders lectured the United States on how it must do more to curtail drug consumption, a Latin American source at the meeting told

Reuters.

Peru's sharp-tongued President Alberto Fujimori was the most critical of the United States saying he could not imprison 200,000 cocagrowing Peruvian peasants just because the United States wanted him to, the sources said.

Colombian President Emseto Samper said in an interview with Reuters he was pleased by approval of the anti-drug initiative, which his country had proposed.

"I think it will be a historic definitive step in the fight against drug-trafficking because if we succeed in stopping the profits from drugtrafficking being recycled and reinvested in the business then we will hit the business very hard," he said.

"We are talking about big numbers — more than \$500 billion which the drug trade is worth," he added.

Argentine President Carlos Menem, whose barbs against Cuban leader Fidel Castro earned him a hero's welcome from Cuban exiles in Miami. made good on his pledge to bring up the issue of the communist island at the summit. Cuba was excluded from the meeting because it is not

The problem was that his fellow summiteers were not as keen to discuss Cuba and. according to one source, did not follow up in any great detail.

"Cuba must start opening toward a mutli-party representative democracy in order ot take part fully in the hemisphere's life," Mr. Menem said, according to an account of the closed meeting he gave reporters afterwards.

Mr. Clinton, adding nothing to Mr. Menem's manifesto, immediately gave the floor of Jamaican Prime Minister J.P. Patterson, who spoke about a totally different issue, a source at the meeting said.

California's controversial anti-illegal immigrant measure. known as Proposition 187, came up in the morning round of talks at Vizcaya, a

Mexico's President Ernes-

to Zedillo and El Salvador's President Armando Calderon Sol expressed their concern over the issue which could affect hundreds of thousands of citizens from their countries who live illegally in Cali-

"President Clinton responded that he was also against the Proposition and outlined his actions against it." said the official.

The Proposition denies illegal aliens and their children state-provided services like schooling and some medical treatment. It is being challenged in court.

Approval of the free trade zone was a triumph for Mr. Clinton's policy of expanding free trade around the world and follows on the heels of such agreements as the North American Free Trade Agreement and GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and

Pakistan's economy hooked on drug profits

ISLAMABAD (AFP) Pakistan, one of the world's largest producers of illegal narcotics, is hooked on revenues from the lucrative drug trade, which help sustain the country's impoverished economy but threaten long-term growth.

A report by the U.N. Drug Control Programme says drugs yield the country \$1.5 billion a year in foreign exchange or nearly a quarter the value of legitimate exports, shoring up the halance of payments and the local

Heroin output alone is estimated at least \$2.4 billion a year, five per cent of gross domestic product. Some estimates go as high as \$4 billion, but it is difficult to be sure because of the illicit nature of the traffic.

Along with Burma, Pakistan is one of the world's leading producers of heroin: 80 tonnes are consumed locally, and 40 to 50 tonnes are exported, according to experts.

The U.N. report estimates that about 20 to 50 underground laboratories operate in Pakistan's frontier zone. each run by about a dozen people and producing every

day 10 to 15 kilogrammes of brown heroin, or five to six kilogrammes of white heroin. The industry does not

generate productive investment and only employs about 1,000 to 3,000 people, the U.N. study says.

Western experts say the bulk of drug profits is not repatriated to Pakistan, but is siphoned off to overseas accounts.

Domestic spending on drugs, estimated at \$1.1 billion annually, harms longterm growth prospects. drains savings, frays the social fabric and widens the gap between the rich, who benefit from the trade, and the

Pakistan, which had practically no drug problems 10 years ago, now has 1.5 million drug addicts out of a national population of 128 million, with a per-capita income below \$400 a year.

There have been many accusations of army involvement in drug trafficking although none has been substantiated by any evidence.

"If we could get any evidence, it would become a major issue," said a Western diplomat.

China tries to curb lending

HONG KONG (AFP) — Thing has imposed stringent neasures to restrict key commercial loans to strategic industries in a bid to shore up he credit rating of local firms ollowing a spate of bad

Ine measures came as nce generous lenders tightsented their own procedures or approving credit to joint entures, which have nushroomed in the booming Chinese economy, currently growing between 11 and 12 er cent.

"There were internal circu-2rs sent recently to all local tovernments as well as stateut banks to limit loans to approved credit limits in azjor contracts," an official : 22 affiliate of the Bank of Tana said.

"Authorities have decided o restrict foreign investment in those that meet strategic economic development needs of the country," he said.

Foreign investment in China this year is expected to rise 29 per cent to \$33.5 billion. out authorities were trying to rut its growth next year, the China-run Hong Kong China News Service has reported.

ne agency said there was a shift in foreign investment in China to long-term venil tures such as infrastructure, tower and telecommunica-

. 25.0 These measures were -aken after several foreign lenders and leasing firms rent public with concerns over the reliability of Chinese itms repaying loans and meeting contracts, dampening the country's attractive-

the past, there was such carelessness in granting loans, without realising most the state-run enterprises vere actually in the red."

said a Hong Kong-based Japanese banker involved in China deals.

"Now, we have to look at the risk factor," he said. "We can't just, take their word without checking reliability, as policy changes as fast as personnel," he said.

"It should be played by the rules now," the banker said, although it will take some 20 years to overhaul the legal system in China, troubled by rampant corruption and a stubborm bureaucracy.

In the past, China had enjoyed a high sovereign credit rating as a Third World country, and had wide access to loans. But doubts are surfac-

Wall Street banking giant Lehman Brothers has taken two Chinese state-owned trading companies to court in the United States to recover \$100 million the firms allegedly lost in foreign ex-

change transactions. Earlier, a group of 31 Japanese banks had reportedly written to Beijing for help to recover some \$600 million in loans to state entreprises.

Apart from bad loans, fickle policies are also giving some investors second thoughts about going into China.

U.S. fastfood giant McDonald's is reportedly seeking millions of dollars in compensation after being evicted from a prime site in downtown Beijing slated for redevelopment by Hong Kong property tycoon Li Ka-shing.

But analysts believe there are no grounds for excessive pessimism in China, Jason Kwok, chief eco-

nomist of Citibank in Hong Kong, said that "to some extent" recent negative developments "will affect sentiment of foreign investors."

Russia struggles to measure shadow economy

MOSCOW (R) — Russian statisticians have confirmed what economists have said for months — it was hard enough to calculate the size of the economy but the "shadow" sector was big.

This undeclared economy. - firms and individuals avoiding tax by failing to declare incomes and revenue --- now made up about 20 per cent of Russia's gross domestic product, the head of the state statistics committee Yuri Yurkov said.

The statisticians said they added 40 per cent to the figures they received for goods and services to take account of the shadow or "grey" economy.

"We are pitifully ahead of the whole planet in this," Mr. Yurkov told a news conference. "In Italy, where the market is the most developed, the figure is 13

per cent." He added that Russian output figures did not include criminal activity but took account of hidden volumes of sales, companies working without licences and private individuals involved in unlicensed imports.

Russians took about \$500 million out of the country in September, most of it to buy goods which were not declared, according to customs committee figures, Mr. Yurkov said.

Russia's GDP in January-October was 85 per cent of what it was in the same period last year. Services, where the shadow sector is becoming increasingly important, accounted for 55 per cent of GDP, said Vladimir Sokolin, deputy head of the committee.

The increasing size of the shadow economy meant Russia was forced to develop a whole new system to estimate how big the economy was.

"There are about two million firms on the market... and you cannot just tell them all to give us information. So we have to make our estimates based on alternative information." Mr. Yurkov

In Soviet times, statistics collection was a key part of centralised control over enterprises. But Mr. Yurkov said his committee now sought to obtain information to give society an idea of cur-

rent trends in the economy. "State statistics is a state tax in the form of information. And the state must guarantee security of this information." Mr. Yurkov said. "Our aim is not to fine firms, but get the data on the basis of equality and not by

threats and repression."

He also said a draft law on statistics, which included these points, had been prepared and submitted to the government.

Russia's statistics bodies have been working with experts from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, Germany, France and the U.K., the committee officials said.

They said World Bank experts would recalculate Russia's GDP over the past year to compare methods and correct any mistakes.

But Mr. Yurkoy said Russia was currently a difficult case for statisticians.

"We have vast experience in Soviet statistics, they know free market statistics. But nobody ever tried to analyse a transitional period. Especially in Russia," Mr. Yurkov

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1994 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Consider carefully those persons you want to add to your present roster of friends, make overtures in their direction. Situations occurring in the outside world will give you the change to move ahead in a modern way.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get your practical affairs in better: order at home and steer clear of a partner who is visionary. Improve your health and appearance.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be with partners and talk over your mutual aims so you get the right results. Cut down on expenses and you can have extra money for the future.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan to add to your present income by utilising your finest talents. Avoid one who can be very tiring to you. Be good to yourself. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Begin the week properly

by solving problems which have arisen during the weekend. Some fundamental affair is worrisome to you. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Have a meeting with close ties and solve

some situation properly once and for all. Show that you are steadfast and wise in your activities. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You need more information

about how best to get assistance from friends for your finest projects. Be wise towards how you wish to proceed. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) One of the experience can give you fine advice about some monetary matter ahead of you, so is

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you study that enterprise which interests you from a different angle, you will soon get right into it. Forget that private concern

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) It is important you first talk to an expert before trying to get all of your affairs in fine order. Relax in the evening with friends. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can get together

with partners and good friends and get much accomplished which is worthwhile. This is a good day to ask for favours. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be sure you handle those

tasks ahead of you exactly as higher-ups expect you to do it. Look for social pleasure in the evening. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are inspired how to gain) your aims in the early morning, so go right after them with enthusiasm. Use particular care while driving.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise - Zircon

it to your best advantage.

seven per cent, against measures promised by Ms. Mr. Isenman was echoing Kumaratunga's People's growth of 6.9 per cent in the sentiments of a similar

Colombo walks tightrope in battling inflation

COLOMBO (AFP) — The Sri Lankan government is walking an economic tightrope as it tries to contain sky-rocketing inflation as the World Bank warned that price controls and subsidies could backfire on the eco-

The government's mainfood importing arm, the Cooperative Wholesale Establishment (CWE), is to increase imports in competition with private traders to bring down food prices. a government spokesman has

President Chandrika Kumaratunga's office has accused private traders by 46, points to 1,502 last month reversing a downward trend in the previous two months. Central Bank of Sri Lanka

figures showed. The food import move came as the World Bank expressed concern that welfare

BLT NOT NEARLY SO WORKIED AS SOME OF THE PEOPLE HE OWES IT TO

Alliance in the August and November elections could lead to more economic woes. The World Bank's South Asia director, Paul Isenman.

said the new government's handouts and price controls could stifle production and "Fixing prices for the benefit of consumers may

adversely impact on the incentives for the producers. This would undermine the objectives of increasing production, growth and employment," Mr. Isenman told reporters over the weekend. A widening budget deficit

and "give-aways" will make it difficult for Sri Lankan exports to compete with those from Bangladesh, China, India and Vietnam, he said after talks with Ms. Kumaratunga, who became president last month.

mission here by a 10-member Asian Development Bank (ADB) team last month. Both clearly want the government to accept their prescription for economic recovery

by slashing subsidies. The international lenders have, however, sugar-coated their pill with praise for Ms. Kumaratunga's peace efforts to end the country's dragging Tamil separatist war, which consumes nearly a quarter of

state revenue annually. The country's budget deficit for 1995 was originally estimated at six per cent of GDP, but Justice Minister G.L. Peiris told parliament last month that the shortfall could be a staggering 10 per

Economic growth figures for 1994 have been revised downwards to five per cent from an earlier figure of

Mr. Peiris, who is also deputy finance minister, told reporters last week he did not

intend to reintroduce capital gains tax on stock market transactions or a wealth tax. but declined to discuss other "We will have to keep a

watchful eve on emerging inflationary trends, Mr. Peiris said, "We will have to rein in fiscal expansion in order to stabilise the economy and стеаte the necessary conditions for foreign capital inflows and rapid economic growth.

'We intend to address these problems in the forthcoming budget early next year," Mr. Peiris said while presenting in parliament late last month with a mini budget for the first three months of next year.

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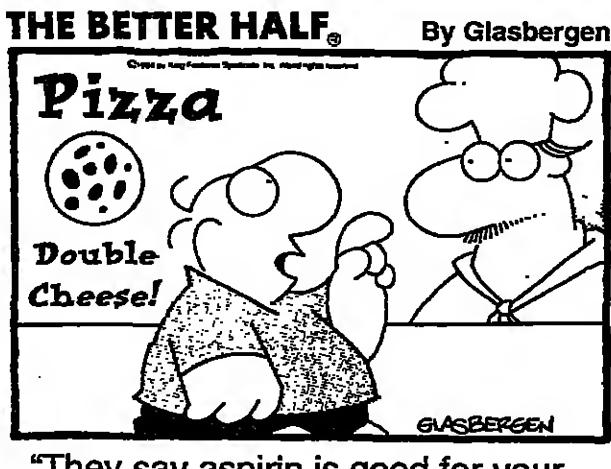


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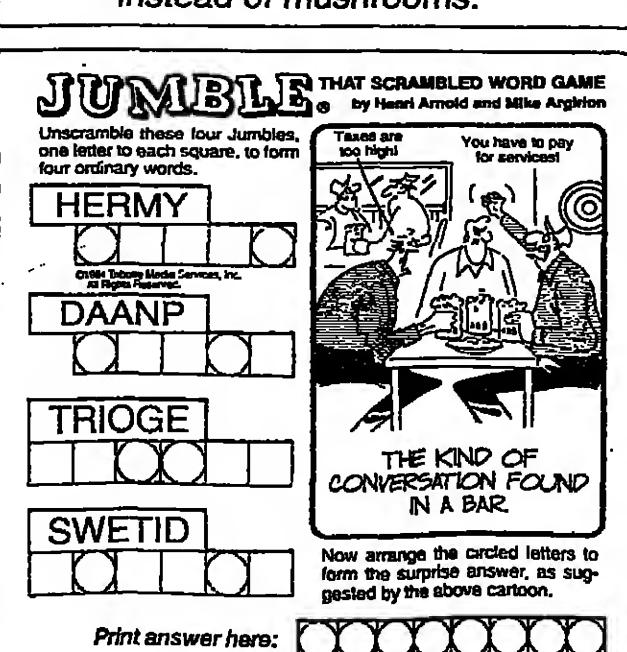
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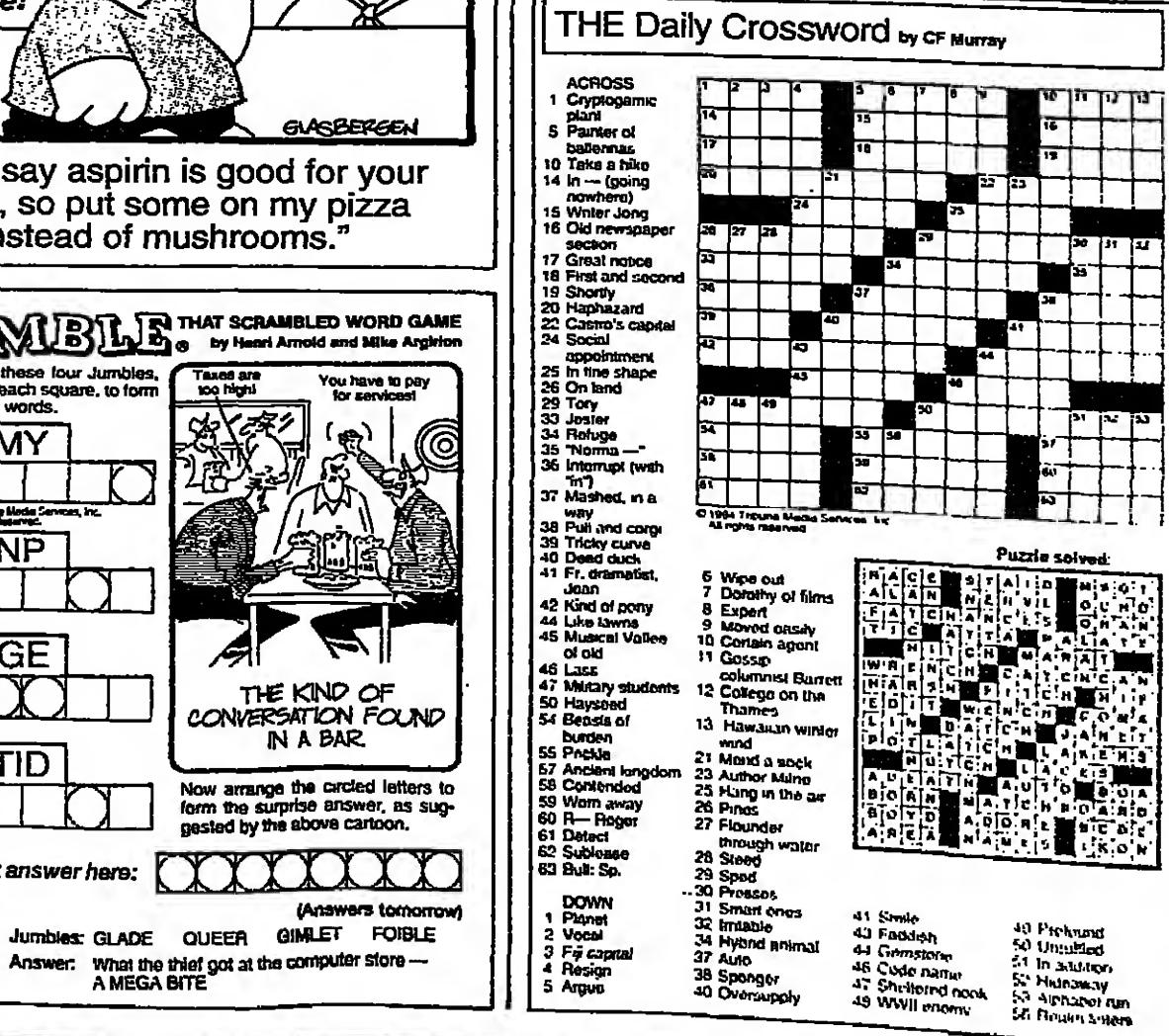
"They say aspirin is good for your heart, so put some on my pizza instead of mushrooms.



Jumbles: GLADE QUEER

A MEGA BITE

Yesterday's



DECEMBER 12, 1994

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A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Plan ready to enliven Dead Sea shore

☆☆ The French company OTH and its local agents Sigma company have completed the main plan to develop the Dead Sea shore which stretches for about 60 kilometres. The plan, which aroused enthusiasm among many local investors, envisages building hotels, tourist villages, amusement centres and public parks. The Jordan Valley Authority will be floating tenders for these projects early next year (Al Aswaq).

** Studies point out that large amounts of oil shale exist in Shalalah in the Irbid governorate (Sawt Al Shaab).

☆☆ The Natural Resources Authority decided to dig five wells next year to explore for oil in the Risheh area. More exploration work and digging will be conducted in Risheh to consolidate the production of gas (A) Dustour).

☆☆ Knowledgeable sources point out that 15 per cent of imported drugs are destroyed each .. year because of their expiry date. Higher volumes of locally-manufactured drugs are destroyed more often as they have a shorter validity date, usually between two to three years (Al-Dustour).

★★ Prices of fish are going up due to an international increase in prices (Al Dustour).

☆☆ A foreign company in cooperation with some local parties are searching for a large land plot in the subsurbs of Amman to build an amusement park similar to World Disney's (Al Dustour).

★★ The National Company for Aluminium Industries is requesting the founders to pay the second instalment of their subscription. The company has a JD 12 million capital and is planning to build its factory in Al - Jizeh (Ziziya), south of Amman. The chairman of the board is Hani Al Haj Hassan (Al Aswaq).

* The Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan) will open a branch in Ramallah next year as it sees the city as the main centre for businessmen and international financial institutions in the Palestinian territories. The general manager of the bank does not expect Israeli banks to open branches in Jordan because the Kingdom has reached the sufficiency level in the banking sector (Al Aswaq).

☆☆ A major deal was concluded at the Amman Financial Market where more than 1.35 million shares of the Amman Bank for Investment were traded in a single transaction. The deal amounted for about JD 2 million and the buyer was rumoured to be a prominent investor whose main business activity is in Saudi Arabia (Al Aswaq).

Gulf cement demand

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A construction boom will boost demand for cement in Arab Gulf states to record levels in the next two years and the increase will be fully-covered by existing expansion, an official study said.

Business & Finance

From 28.8 million tonnes in 1994, cement consumption in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will grow to 29.1 million tonnes in 1995 and a 15-year high of 30.3 million tonnes in 1996, according to the study by the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy (GOIC).

The GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar. Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) - currently produce nearly 26.3 million tonnes of cement per year, covering around 95 per cent of the existing capacity, said the study, carried by the official UAE news agency WAM.

But new projects and expansion of existing units will push up output capacity by 8.4 million tonnes per year by

1997. Another 9.6 million tonnes of clinker, a key ingredient of cement, will be added during that period. The study said the rise in demand was due to a construction upswing as such a sector is one of the most profitable in the region, given

investment fields. Around \$3.2 billion have been invested in the GCC's cement industry and the figure is set to rise with the new expansion.

the high rents and the abs-

ence of other major feasible

The current gap of around 2.5 million tonnes is being imported, with the bulk of the imports going to Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter. The kingdom also accounts for nearly half the region's cement production, followed by

GCC states launched their cement industry during the oil boom of the late 1970s to meet rocketing demand as they embarked on a massive infrastructure drive.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times -- in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank



Foreign Exchange Market Summary (December 5 - December 9, 1994)

AMMAN — The dollar depreciated modestly against the yen and the mark at the end of last week, while it stabilised against sterling. It ended the week 0.19 per cent lower against the mark, 0.53 per cent lower against the yen. The dollar depreciated against the mark and the yen at the beginning of the week, while appreciating against sterling. The dollar's decline came as many traders liquidated their long dollar positions on profit-taking. The dollar's decline was also attributed to widespread rumours that the Bundesbank and the Bank of France had placed

orders to sell the dollar at 1.58 marks. The dollar depreciated against the yen and sterling Tuesday, while appreciating modestly against the mark. The dollar's decline came following news, that Fidelity Investments would not distribute end of year profits to shareholders of the Magellan Fund. The news spurred fears that investors might liquidate their investment in mutual funds, which had a negative impact on U.S. stocks. But lack of confirmation of such rumours rebounded U.S. stock

prices later that day, which curbed the dollar's decline. The dollar depreciated further Wednesday in view of concern over the implications of the potential bankruptcy of Orange County in California: Analysts indicated that such a crisis might postpone the Federal Reserve's next interest rate hike. But comments by Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Alan Greenspan, later in the day, stressing the Fed's determination to fight inflationary pressures by raising interest rates further if necessary, put a floor under the dollar. On the other hand, sterling exchange rates weren't influenced substantially by a Bank of England base rate by increase by 0.5 per cent to 6.25 per cent, as such a step was widely expected.

On Thursday, however, the dollar witnessed substantial gains against other major currencies. It rose on expectations that the Fed would tighten its monetary policy at its next scheduled Federal Open Market Committee meeting on Tuesday 20/12/1994. Comments by the Federal Reserve chairman the previous day, supported these expectations.

The U.S. unit retreated against the yen and stabilised against the mark Friday, while rising slightly against sterling. Reports indicated that trading was quiet ahead of U.S. economic data due the following week. In the mean time, the dollar's decline against the yen came on the back of profit-taking by a number of traders.

The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.5770 marks, 100.08 yen and at 1.5600 dollar to sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the

	†	
7.5610	1.5600	10-06)\$
1.5800	1.5770	0.19 %
1.3357	1_3360	[0.17]\$
5.4205	5.4165	0.07 3
100.61	100.08	0.53 %
	1.5800 1.3357 5.4205	1.5800 1.5770 1.3357 1.3360 5.4205 5.4165

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 11/12/1004

	Pampir 11:15:14	
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7020	0.7040
Sterling Pound	1.0939	1_0994
Deutsche Mark	0.4442	0.4464
Swiss Franc	0.5250	0.5276
French Franc	0. i 297	0.1303
Japanese Yen"	0.7002	0_7037
Dutch Gullder	€-3966	0.3986
Swedish Krona	第14条数	404254
Italian Lira -	5. 1 h. 1	0.0453
Belgian Franc	. * 5 4 5	44544





Study sees sharp rise in Oman, Bahrain to link stock markets by early '95

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Oman and Bahrain will soon start linking their stock exchanges as part of plans by six Arab Gulf states to create a common market in line with their economic integration pact. officials said Sunday. An agreement that will allow mutual listing of banks and companies in Oman and

Bahrain for the first time will be signed in Manama in early 1995, said Mahmud Jarwani, director of the Muscat Stock Exchange.

COMPANY'S NAME

JORDAN NATIONAL BANK

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JORDAN GULF BANK

JORDAN KUWAIT BANK

JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK

MIDDLE BAST INVESTMENT BANK.

AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT

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"The agreement has been

drafted and is ready for signing," he told AFP by telephone from the Omani capital. "We will sign it early next year and we hope it will open the way for other Gulf markets to join in."

The agreement follows more than a year of negotiations between the two Gulf nations, which both already permit partial share trading by foreigners. But they are planning to expand such a sphere to attract investment. The Muscat bourse was set

TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170

up in 1989 with around 45

HOUSING BANK CENTER

ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY

banks and companies, which have now mushroomed to nearly 80 institutions.

ket capitalisation stood at cial figures.

11/12/1994

10,344

2,216

2,945

10,933

2,468

9,044

2,600

28,856

9,427

8,630

1,624

47,709

70,032

582,188

3,104

9,315

2,753

1,903

1,365

264,535

24,028

AMMAN - SEMEISANI

SHARES

1.750

2,963

15,500

5,150

1,000

3,762

1,000

91,311

3,200

8,120

3,250

73,997

200,750

10,850

Turnover exceeded \$180 million in 1993 and their mar-

around \$5 billion at the end of the year, according to offi-Bahrain's market was also established in 1989 and near-

ly 33 banks and companies now trade their shares, with a market capitalisation of \$5.6 billion at the end of 1993 and a turnover slightly higher than the Muscat bourse.

TRADED PREV. CLOSING

4.430

1.590

5.540

000.E

1.680

3.210

1.530

2.600

1.560

1.520

3.220

0.800

2.480

1.390

2.860

2.650

9.240

4.950

8.100

5.620

17.350

1.020

7.000

0.930

1.400

4.250

2.850

1.550

0.830

5.420

2.790

4.200

2.700

184.250 184.500

volume closing price

AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER

5.540

3.010

3.300

1.560

3.250

1.270

2.510

2.890

2.700

9.240

4.950

17.450

7.200

1-450

4.300

5.550

4.280

2.730

Both bourses allow investors from the other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to own up to 49 per cent of their shares.

"I hope our agreement with Bahrain will be the nucleus of joint GCC stock market." Mr. Jarwani said. "It is a viable experience that could apply to other Gulf markets provided they open up to non-national investors.'

The UAE, where dealing is conducted by telephone through stockbrokers, said last week it would set up an official floor in 1995 and limited trading would be open

to foreigners. "Such a deci-

sion will contribute to the planned GCC stock market linkage," said Zuhair Kaswani, a UAE stockbroker. -Experts said the Oman-

Bahrain link would activate their bourses as it would enable trading institutions to . find more clients or get more subscribers in case they decide to float new shares to raise their capital.

"The link between the Omani and Bahraini bourses will not be compulsory," Mr. Jarwani said. "It will be up to each bank or companay to decide whether to list itself in the markets. But I think such a listing will benefit all."

UAE's Dubai airport gears up for growth

port, the busiest in the Gulf, is considering large-scale expansion in response to growing passenger and cargo traffic. Dubai Department of Civil Aviation Director-General Mohieddin Binhendi

The Dubai airport, the second largest of the seven states of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the federation's business hub, handled 79,642 flights in 1993 an average of 218 flights a day — bringing in 5.7 million passengers.

"In response to growing demand we have a plan to build further facilities for departing and arriving passengers," Mr. Bionhendi said in an interview.

Expansion plans under study for the year 2000 and beyond included the construction of a new departure building and two underground tunnels linking the proposed building with the existing departure hall, he The construction of "air-

bridges" from 22 gates in the planned new building to aircraft was also under consideration. More than 60 airlines fly

DUBAI (R) - Dubai air- into Dubai airport and Mr. Binhendi predicted that more carriers would come in soon. He said the airport's cargo. terminal was also set for

growth in 1995 to avoid

reaching capacity constraints. Last month, the airport's cargo director Sultan Bin Nasser Al Mansoury said construction of a second cargo agents' building at the terminal would begin early next year to raise capacity to 350,000 tonnes. Last year the facility handled 218,264 ton-

Mr. Binhendi said the construction of 10 aircraft parking bays at the airport which began in June - wasgoing well and was expected. to be completed within the next few months.

"The 10 new bays and their fuelling hydrants will be. finished in a couple of months, which will bring the total number of bays to 36. he said, adding that the costof the project was about 50 = million dirhams (\$13.6 mil-

The new bays, capable of handling super wide-bodiedaircraft like Boeing 747-400s. would satisfy growing demand "for the next five years" OT SO."

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

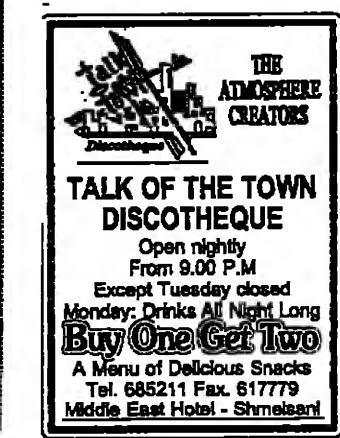


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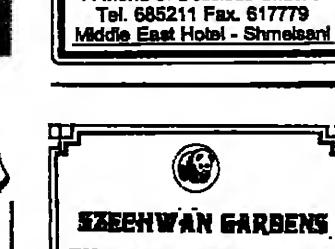
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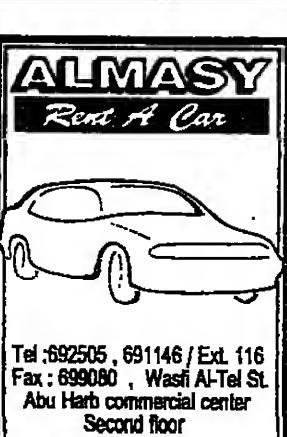
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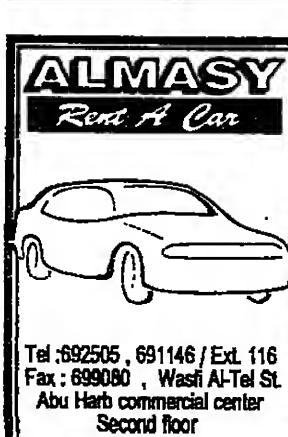
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Sampras, Larsson to contest Grand Slam Cup

CMUNICH (AP) — Pete Sampras and Magnus Larsson will contest the richest prize in tennis. They took vastly different ways to get to the -final of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup.

Sampras No. 1 in the ~ world, took more than three hours and five long sets to beat Goran Ivanisevic Saturday and to reach the final. He could have done it a lot . quicker.

Sampras, champion here in 24 1990 and loser last year of another marathon in the semifinals, survived 41 aces le s - ... by Ivanisevic and prevailed .- 5-7. 6-3. 6-4. 6-7 (5-7). 10-8.

In the final for the champion's prize of \$1.5 million. Sampras will meet Larsson. :--: who cruised past Todd Martin of the United States 6-4. 6-1. 6-1 in the other semifinal. اله

Larsson, the French Open semifinalist who helped Sweden clinch the Davis Cup :I + . title over Russia last weekend, could have done hardly faster, winning a three-set decision in just 75 minutes.

Sampras wasted two set points in the first set before allowing Ivanisevic to come back and clinch the set. He needed seven set points to finish off the second, and he .wasted four match points before Ivanisevic hit a volley long that ended the match

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South

-4AJ108543 TVoid : AKJ9 483

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East

What do you bid now?

to four spaces.

14 Pass 1 NT Pass

A .- Don't invite your partner to

the dance when you know where

you want to play. There are any

number of hands he might have

which will produce 19 tricks, but

with which he will take no action

should you bid a mere three spades.

Take the strain off him by jumping

Q.2—As South vuinerable, you

The bidding has proceeded:

Pass

What do you bid now?

~AQ8 '63 +KQ762

East South West

Pass 2 + Pass

A.—This is a matter of style. If you

play that a two-over-one response is a game force, then two spades is sufficient. If not, you must show

that you have more than a mere

preference by jumping to three



straight-sets victory turned

into one of the longest match-

es at the Grand Slam Cup -

the second longest in terms of

match points in losing to

eventual champion Petr Kor-

da in the semifinal in 68

through my mind was that

nightmare last year. I thought

maybe it just wasn't meant to

be for me to get to the final."

Q.5-Both vulnerable, as South

A8 +752

1 + Pass

K72

North East South West

A .- You are in the slam zone, we

fie on you if you bid a pusillantments

four hearts. Your hand can best he

described by an advance cue-bid of

four diamonds, to be followed by a

Q.6-Both vulnerable, as South

Partner opens the bidding with a

demand bid of two spades. What do

A .- Even though your hand is bal-

anced, partner's certainly is not, so

don't even think about a jump to

three no trump. Your first task is to

set the trump suit, while showing a

positive response, to allow for an orderly investigation of prospects.

A happy holiday season to all our readers!

8543 AKQ 4QJ7

heart mise at your next turn

The bidding has proceeded

Pass

Pass

What do you hid now?

you hold:

AK983

you respond?

Bid three spades.

"The first thing that went

Sampras also wasted five

games (62).

games last vear.

Goran Ivanisevic after three hours and 22 mi-

"I didn't play the match points aggressively enough." Sampras said after making sure of collecting at least \$750,000 guaranteed to the

runner-up. As winner of two Grand Slam titles this year, in Austria and at Wimbledon, he will also collect a \$250,000 bonus and could go home \$2 million richer.

The losing semifinalists each collected \$425,000.

GOREN BRIDGE

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.3-As South, vulnerable, you

A.—Normally, you would show a

balanced minimum by passing-

East's overcall has relieved you of

the necessity to bid. However, your

queen in partner's suit and the

spade honors behind the overcaller

should be upgraded and you can tell

partner of that by rebidding one no

Q.4-Neither vulnerable, as South

●J93 **◆**74 AQ **◆**AJ9762

Partner opens the bidding with one

no trump. What do you respond?

A.—Even if partner has a maxi-

mum 18 points, your combined high-card assets are only 30 points. Don't go chasing after moonbeams hoping to find partner with a magic

fit. Bid three no trump.

.. yaw hold:

The bidding has proceeded:

Pass

What action do you take?

South West North East

WITH OMAR SHARIF

& TANNAH HIRSCH

11993 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

What should have been a Sampras said.

> Sampras and Korda both nearly collapsed in the final set last year, and Sampras became ill before losing the

In the opening set. Ivanisevic saved the first set point with an ace, but Sampras should have converted the next when he had an easy forehand, but it sailed wide and Ivanisevic recovered to

clinch the first set. Ivanisevic frequently hit aces at 200 kph and faster. but even that awesome display of power failed to save the fifth-ranked Croatian from defeat.

in 1976. John Feaver served 42 aces at Wimbledon and still lost to John New-

"I gave everything. I tried everything and then again I lost, but he is No. 1 in the world and has to beat me 10-8 in the fifth to beat me. I am

ORLANDO (AP) — Sha-

quille O'Neal dominated at

both ends of the court Satur-

day night, scoring 33 points

and grabbing 13 rebounds to

lead the National Basketball

Association's hottest team,

the Orlando Magic; to a 109-

98 triumph over the Atlanta

the last 14 games for Orlan-

do, which improved the

league's best record to 15-3.

22 points for the Magic,

which broke the game open

Anfernee Hardaway had

The victory was the 13th in

disappointed but I think I finished the year in a good way." Ivanisevic said. "That was maybe the best match I played this year."

Sampras has now won the last four encounters against Ivanisevic, including this summer's Wimbledon final. and leads the series 6-5.

Ivanisevic is serving a twomonth suspension for code of conduct violations. but he was allowed to play here because the invitational tournament is not governed by the ATP Tour, which banned Ivanisevic.

Sampras started the match with a double-fault and it never became really easy sailing for the top-ranked American, who won the inaugural edition of the \$6 million event, the most lucrative tournament in the world which invites 16 players with the best records in the four Grand Slam events of the

After wasting two set points, Sampras dropped his own serve to lose the first set. Sampras did have a period of dominance in the second set, when he won 15 points in a row, in the proces breaking

for a -2 lead. "I gave him two easy sets. second and third." Ivanisevic

Ivanisevic saved two match points in the 10th game of the decisive set, and two more to level at 8-8.

But he fell behind 0-40 in the final game, and Sampras was able to finish off the match.

"He hit a pretty soft volley, but I wasn't aggressive enough even on that last the American said. "But the only way to break him was to get a crack on his second serve and that's what happened in that last game."

by outscoring Atlanta 27-11

third quarter.

in the last nine minutes of the

Saturday's games

New York 107, Philadelphia 103

New Jersey 198, Boston 96

Orlando 109, Atlanta 98

Cleveland 37, Detroit 79

Indiana II7. Miami, 103

Dallas 99, Charlotte 86

Phoenix 193, Minnesota 89

Milwankee 106, Chicago 103

San Antonio 108, Houston 96

Sacramento 106, Golden State 94

Seattle 132, L.A. Clippers 127,

Denver 111, Washington 89 L.A. Lakers 120, Utah 113

O'Neal leads Magic to victory

Chavez retains super lightweight championship

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) - Julio Cesar Chavez methodically pounded challenger Tony Lopez to retain his WBC super lightweight championship Saturday when the referee stopped the fight

in the 10th round. Dr. Romeo Garcia Bena vides halted the fight at 1:41 of the round because the challenger from Sacramento. California, was bleeding over both eyes, with both eyes swelling. Lopez was bleeding especially profusely over the right eye.

"The cut was really bad. There was no sense of letting it continue. If the people would have seen this cut. they would not have booed the stoppage," said referee Luis Carlos Guzman.

It was Chavez's 93rd win against only one loss and one draw. The national sporting hero from Culiacan, Mexico. is in a farewell tour of fights. planning to reach 100 later next year before he retires.

After the victory, Chavez was taken to a hospital with

what one of his trainers. Emmanuel Steward, said was a very sore shoulder.

Lopez was a former IBF junior lightweight champion and WBA lightweight title holder. He is now 45-5-1 after having fought most of his fights in the northern California and Nevada area.

in other bouts:

★ WBA junior welterweight champion Frankie Randall knocked out Rodney Moore to continue his drive for a rematch with Chavez. Randall stunned Moore with a sharp right hand, then pummeled him against the ropes until the referee stopped the fight at 1:43 of the seventh round.

Randall is gunning for a third fight against Chavez as the only man ever to beat Mexico's boxing hero. In their rematch in May, Chavez won only on a disputed ruling in a split decision arising from a head butt of Chavez.

\$\prime \text{In the best fight of the card. Argentina's Jorge Castro came back from the verge of defeat to retain his WBA middleweight championship with a shocking ninth-round knockout of John David

Jackson. ☆ Felix Trinidad confirmed his stature as one of boxing's best young champions, scoring an eighthround knockout over Oba Carr to retain his IBF welter-

weight title. Carr appeared to take the first few rounds, but his Puerto Rican opponent gradually asserted control, using a longer reach to jab against Carr's face while pounding away with left and right

hooks. * WBA strawweight champion Ricardo Lonez knocked out Yamil Caraballo of Colombia in the first round of their bout, their said he wanted a shot at the WBC light flyweight title, held by Humberto Gonzalez.

Lopez, making his 13th defence of the 105-pound (47kg) title, caught Caraballo leaning with a right hook at 1:10 of the first round.



General view of the FIA World Motorsport Council meeting in Monte Carlo (AFP photo)

Status of Argentine GP uncertain

MONACO (AP) - The International Automobile Federation said Friday it will conduct a final inspection Jan. 22 to determine whether Argentina can host the opening Formula One Grand Prix

răce next season. 41 101 i. The race is tentatively scheduled at the Buenos Aires track on March 12, but the circuit has yet to win FIA

approval. FIA's World Council. meeting in Monaco, also said

it must receive confirmation of required improvements at Imola for the San Marino Grand Prix and Monza for. the Italian Grand Prix.

The deadline for Imola is walso received a report on the Jan. 31, and March 31 for

Last spring's race at Imola was marred by the deaths of two drivers. Roland Ratzenberger of Austria and Ayrton Senna of Brazil.

FIA confirmed that the

European Grand Prix would

be held Oct. 8 at the Nurburing Circuit in Germany. The circuit last staged a Formula One Race in 1985. FIA President Max Mosley

first six months' of work by vian expert safety group he formed during the 1994 Monaco Grand Prix. The group, which includes driver Gerhard Berger, has

studied measures to make cockpits, helmets and race tracks safer.

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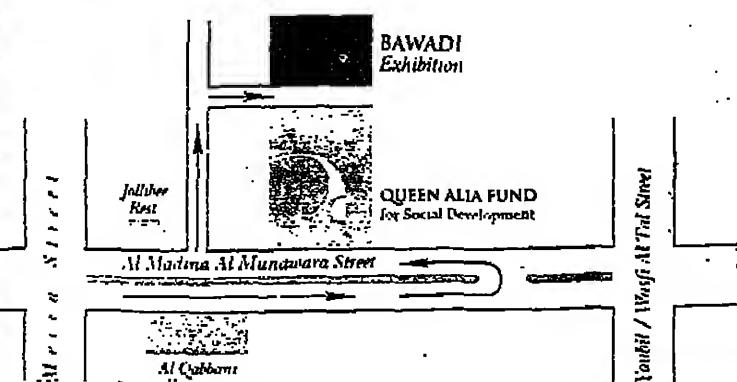
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second round match F

day, in addition to the

79-76 win over Al-Wata

in Irbid in the first-roun-

11 matches and have on

two wins: 74-49 and 89-4

day, Al Jazireh meet titl

holders Al Ahli, while s

Orthodoxi play Al Jalil.

Ahli managed an 89-52 (4

30) win over Al Jalil, whi

Al Orthodoxi scored an 8.

29 (39-19) win over A

Al Ahli, with an un

beaten record, lead th

standings with 20 point

and have exceeded th

1000 point mark in the

scores. Al Orthodoxi fo

low closely behind with 1

points and have only on

defeat - 79-70 to Al Ah

ini the first round fina

They will have to win the:

second encounter on Dec

15 to force a best-of-thre

deciding round.

Watani.

In their latest matches

over Homentmen.

Al Watanis have plays

In other matches Mo

super pionship

DAY, DECEMBER 12, 1994

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CHATTE WINDS

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Sports

Shearer strikes twice to keep Blackburn top

LONDON (Agencies) -Blackburn Rovers hung on to top spot in the English Premiership Saturday, though victories for rivals Manchester United and Newcastle kept them on Rovers' heels. Two goals by English international Alan Shearer were instrumental in a 3-2 home win over Southampton. United won by the same score away to QPR, and Newcastle won 3-1 against Leicester at

St. James' Park. Shearer kept Blackburn on the title trail as the leaders got off to flying start against Southampton.

Bruce Grobbelaar saved a Shearer penalty for the second time this season but was powerless to prevent Shearer scoring his 18th goal of the season from the reboun. Mark Atkins had put Rovers in front after only four minutes.

A right-foot half volley, from Matthew Le Tissier pulled one back for the Saints, before Shearer restored the two-goal advantage. Le Tissier pulled another back but the Saints failed to find an

equaliser. Second-placed Manchester United, playing their first match since failing to make the European Champions Cup quarter-finals, fell behind as Les Ferdinad's 30yard strike gave Queen's Park Rangers boss Ray Wilkins an early success against his former club.

But one of United's new kids on the block - striker Paul Scholes - brought the champions level after 34 minutes and Republic of Ireland international Roy Keane then put them in front just

before half-time. Scholes bit another after the break to put United 3-1 ahead, but Rangers would not lie down and Ferdinand scored his second of the game in the 64th minute.

Newcastle defender Philippe Albert proved his mettle against Leicester. A superb left-foot volley from the Belgian, who had not scored all season, put his team 1-0 up. before David Oldfield equalised after Pavel Srnicek was caught out of position.

Steve Howey's 12-yard header regained the lead for Newcastle. And Albert, fed by Beardsley from a freekick, made sure of maximum

Tottenham, hoping to celebrate their FA reprieve with a good performance against Sheffield Wednesday, fell behind to Ian Nolan's 38th minute strike. But youngster Nick Barmby equalised and Jurgen Klinsmann put Spurs ahead in the 72nd minute. Colin Calderwood, from

a Klinsmann rebound, made season's tally to 19. it 3-1 to complete a fine day for chairman Alan Sugar. Sugar had received a standing ovation from the crowd following Friday's announce-

against their deduction of six point and ban from the FA Cup for financial irregularities by a former Spurs reg-

Managerless Ipswich were hit by a first half goal blitz by on-song Nottingham Forest at the City Ground.

Stan Collymore gave Forest a fourth minute lead before Scot Gemmill, Alf Halland and a trademark Stuart Pearce free-kick made it 4-0. Claus Thomson pulled one back a minute before the interval.

West Ham, with only 10 goals to their name all season, got off to a nightmare start at Leeds, who took a third minute lead through Nigel Worthington. Brian Deane added to the

Hammers' misery by claim-

ing a second after 25 minutes

but the Hammers ended their

scoring drought with two

goals from Dutchman Jeroen Boere for a 2-2 draw. Debutant Ashley Ward, a midweek signing from Crewe, took only 23 minutes to establish his goalscoringcredentials for Norwich. He put them ahead against Chelsea at Carrow Road and then added another just before the interval to take his

Jamie Cureton sealed a 3-0 win in the 88th minute. Wimbledon shrugged off the loss of suspended skipper Vinnie Jones, with Oyvind

Leonhardsen and Mick Har-

ford giving them a 2-0 win over Coventry. However, Coventry missed a penalty. In the battle of the new managers at Villa Park, Brian Little's Villa and Joe Royle's

Everton fought out a goalless

draw. Liverpool host Crystal Palace Sunday, and Manchester City entertain Arsenal Monday.

Dortmund take lead into winter break

In Berlin, history proved stronger than momentum Saturday when Bayern Munich, coming off a victory in the European Champions League, was held to a 0-0 draw and failed to win at Bremen for the 15th straight

Following Wednesday's 4-1 victory over Dynamo Kiev, which put Bayern into the quarter-finals of the Champions Cup, Munich players said they felt the team finally had found a chemistry after struggling under first-year coach Giovanni Trapattoni.

But Saturday, Munich turned in a lackluster performance, dropping it another point behind Bundesliga leader Boussia Dortmund, which won 4-0 at Hamburg.

"This draw is an important result for us," said Trapattoni, whose team's record improved to 7-8-2 and 22 points, in fifth place as the German league heads into a twomonth winter break. The sea-'son resumes the weekend of Feb. 18.

"This draw also allowed Dortmund (12-4-1) to extend its lead to four points over Bremen, which heads inot the break in second place. Dortmund got three goals from Michael Zorc to get a victory after two straight

draws.

In other games Saturday, 1860 Munich stunned Frankfurt 2-1, Duisburg beat Stuttgart 2-0 and Dresden and Leverkusen played a 1-1 draw. Freiburg blanked Schalke 3-0. Moenchengladbach, Bayer Uerdingen, VFL Bochum, Cologne and Kaiserslautern all played their 17th-round games on

Nov. 29. Against Bremen, Munich was plagued by the same old problem — offence.

Alexander Zickler blew two easy scoring chances in place of French international Jean-Pierre Papin, the hero against Kiev. In the 33rd minute, his 4-metre volley sailed over an open net.

At Duisburg, second-half goals by Oliver Westerbeek and Rachid Azzouzi gave Duisburg its only second victory of the season.

And at Dresden, Rudi Voeller helped Leverkusen, salvage the draw with his goal in the 78th minute. Johnni Ekstroem scored for Dres-

"It was Cleveland's day.

We were never in synch offensively or defensively."

Hussein battle Watani for place in 1st division today

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — While Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxi battle at the top of the standings for the Kingdom's basketball crown, Al Hussein and Al Watani clash Monday at the other end of the standings in an interesting match-up for a place in the first division.

In an effort to upgrade the competition, organisers the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) have decided that two teams will be relegated this season.

Homentmen became the first of two teams to drop to the second division after failing to score th enecessary number of at team will be decided Mon-

Al Hussein find themselves fighting for their place among the prestigious group. However they are one step ahead of their opponents as their first round 79-76 win over Ai Watani pushed the latter to the brink of relegation from where it would be saved only with a win of over three points in their

upcoming match. Al Watani, a fifth place finisher after defeating Al Hussein in double overtime last year, had hoped to advance their standing after a good training programme with their new Iraqi coach Mohammad Al Najjar, who was previously at

Al Orthodoxi. Despite an ambitious

lineup determined to surprise other teams at the outset of the competition, Al Watani now find themselves fighting for their place in the division rather than achieve an advanced standing. With their only wins over Homentmen, Al Watani are in real danger fo being relegated for the first time since they joined the top teams in 1986.

The JBF last year promoted only one team from the second division instead of the usual two, making the number of competing teams seven for the first time. However, this year two teams will be relegated, and only one will be promoted reducing the number to six as of next

Al Hussein and Al Watani are tied in the standings with 13 points. Al Hussein have played ten matches, scoring three wins: 67-54 over Homentmen in the first round, and 93-67 in the

Monday's matches

- Orthodoxi vs. Jalil 5:30 p.m. Orthodoxi court

- Jazireh vs. Ahli 5:30 p.m. Sports Palace

- Hussein vs. Watani 7 p.m. Sports Palace **STANDINGS**

> SF SA Pts.

Ahli Orthodoxi 861 Jazireh 736 647 731 Watani 1015 13 645 Hussein 1021 10 Homentmen

Cleveland Browns snuff Cowboys; Lions down Jets eats you. That's what hap-112 yards and scored two from 32 yards with 1:49 left stopped the Cowboys tight pened to us today.

ARLINGTON, Texas (R) — The Cleveland Browns snuffed a desperation drive by the Dallas Cowboys inside the one-yard line as time expired Saturday, earning a heartpounding 19-14 upset victory over the two-time defending NFL champions.

Matt Stover kicked four field goals for Cleveland, which solidified its playoff hopes with the win.

Troy Aikman, who started after missing two games with a sprained right knee, moved the Cowboys 50 yards to the Cleveland B with 10 seconds remaining.

He then connected with Jay Novacek on a slant pass, but the Browns' Eric Turner

post:

end a half-yard short of the end zone as time ran out.

ment of the successful appeal

"We just had to beat him to the punch, don't let him into the end zone." Turner said of the game-saving stop. Said Browns linebacker Carl Banks: "They talk about it's a game of inches — well, that play proved it."

Leroy Hoard rushed for 99 yards for Cleveland (10-4) which won at Dallas for the first time in 25 years and notched its first 10-win season since 1988. However, Hoard fumbled into the end zone as he was about to score on Cleveland's first posses-

Emmitt Smith rushed for

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touchdowns for Dallas (11-3), which had a three-game winning streak snapped and fell one game behind San Francisco in the race for the

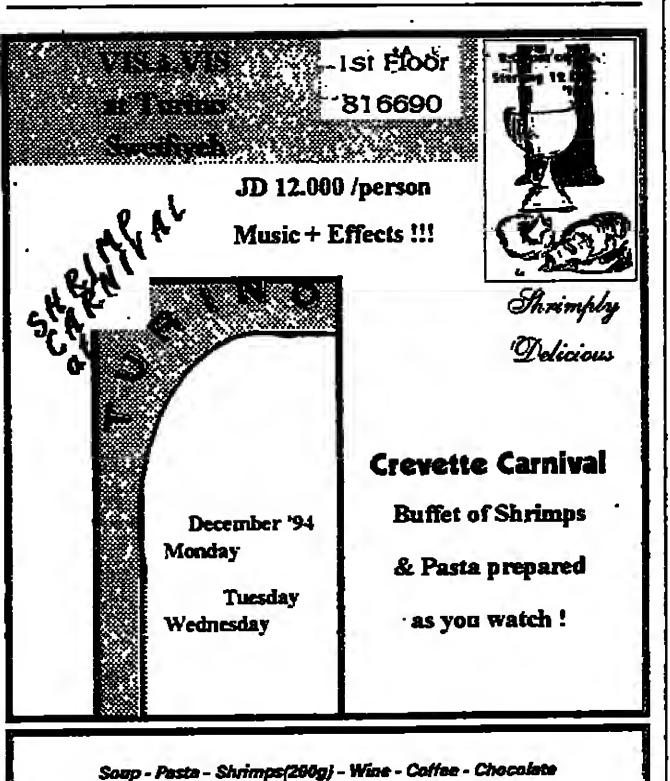
best record in the league. Smith became the first rusher this season to amass 100 yards in a game against Cleveland.

Stover kicked three field goals in the fourth quarter and has converted 20 consecutive field goals, a club record. His final kick was and was set up by a fumbled snap on a fourth-down play. Aikman had a spotty performance, completing 21-of-36 passes for 188 yards, one

touchdown and two intercep-

"Aikman's a good quarterback but he was a little off today," Cleveland defensive back Antonio Langham said.

Dallas coach Barry Switzer said: "I said earlier in the year sometimes you eat the bear and sometimes the bear



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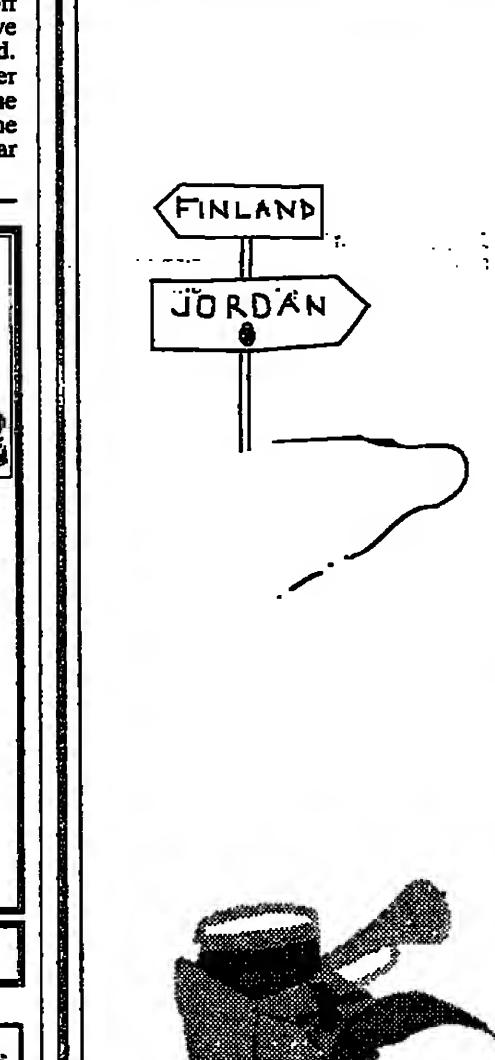
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Drawing competition on the 15th of December at 8:00 p.m. at Alahila - Abela

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PETER CRAPHIC COUNTY

Israeli soldier, 4 guerrillas killed in Lebanon violence month deadlock in

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon militiamen of the Israeli-(AP) — Iranian-backed guerrillas killed an Israeli soldier but lost four of their own men in a bold ambush Sunday near Israel's military headquarters in occupied South Lebanon, security sources reported.

The Shiite Muslim Hizbollah, or Party of God, said its guerrillas, hiding living in a cemetery, killed or wounded up to 25 Israelis when they ambushed a patrol on the outskirts of Marjayoun, the main city of Israel's so-called "security zone" along the border.

.The clash triggered heavy artillery exchanges in which Marjayoun was hammered. Many of its 15,000 residents took shelter in basements. There were no reports of casualties in the hilltop town, but damage was said to be

"It was a horrible battle," a witness described the four hours of fighting that followed the midday (1000 GMT) ambush.

It was the first such guerrilla operation against Israeli forces in Mariavoun in about six years and capped mounting hostilities over the last week in which nine Lebanese armed South Lebanon Army (SLA) and an Israeli soldier were killed.

The roadside bomb was detonated by remote control as the Israeli patrol of two armoured personnel carriers, a truck and two all-terrain vehicles accompanied by soldiers on foot passed, the security sources said, speaking on condition of anonym-

Immediately after the bomb explosion, the guerrillas raked the patrol with rocket-propelled grenades and machinegun fire on the road about one mile from the Israeli military headquarters in the occupied zone.

The sources said three Israeli soldiers were wounded along with three Lebanese civilians riding in a car that ran into the ambush. All were hit in the bomb blast, they said.

The SLA's radio station said the civilians were two women and a little girl. Their condition was not immediately known.

Two guerrillas were killed in a firefight that erupted after the ambush and another two were gunned down by pursuing helicopter gunships in a nearby ravine four hours later, the security sources

Assault rifles, rocket launchers, explosives and several days' supply of food were found near the guerrillas' bodies, they noted.

Hizbollah claimed its fighters destroyed one the patrol's APCs, the truck and another vehicle. But the movement's claims are often exaggerated.

Shortly after the ambush, Israeli artillery fired scores of shells on guerrilla strongholds in the mountains of Iglim Al Tuffah, to the north of Marjayoun.

Hizbollah pounded Marjayoun with rockets and mortars in retaliation. One shell hit the town's telephone exchange, cutting all communication links.

Israeli warplanes later swooped down on suspected guerrilla hideouts in the south and southeast of Lebanon in mock raids, the sources said. The jets dropped missile-deflecting heat balloons, but did not attack.

(1,100-square-kilometre) security zone established by The mounting hostilities in Israel in 1985 as a buffer South Lebanon, the last acagainst guerreilla attacks on tive Arab-Israeli war front. its northern towns. came amid signs that a 10-

Seminar voices optimism on future Jordanian-Palestinian unity

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and Palestinian intellectuals and politicians ended two days of debate over the future of their relationship with optimism that their leaders would adopt their vision for unity between Jordan and any future Palestinian entity. The caution and sensitivity

that has been the feature of the first day of the meetings eased on the second and last day as both sides "came to see the human face behind the politics and perceptions," said Senator Kamel Abu Jaber, head of the World Affairs Council which organised the seminar jointly with the Jerusalem-based Arab

Economist Association. The overriding sentiment among most of those interviewed by the Jordan Times was of the inevitability of forging a union between Jordan and an independent Palestinian entity.

Even former sceptics of this union proposal appeared to have shifted opinion as a result of their first-time contact with politicians from the other side.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Said Al Tal said in an interview that one of the most important elements of the discussions in the seminar was the "conclusion that while we came to these meetings as two sides, we found out that we are effectively one side.

"This is a historic and cru-

cial reality that we have to achieve in the future," Mr. Tal told the Jordan Times.

What Dr. Abu Jaber believes caused this new perspective among former scepties is "the discovery of the depth of the need of the Palestinians."

"We had watched the intifada on our television screens just like everyone else but we did not realise how terrible the situation was until the Palestinian side told us of it during this seminar," Dr. Abu Jaber said. "It was like a new dawn."

In one of the presentations by Palestinian technocrats on the state of the infrastructure in the occupied territories, Jordanian participants were visibly distressed by the data and statistics demonstrating the extent of damage caused by the 26 years of Israeli occupation.

Mr. Tal also concurred with Dr. Abu Jaber on this analysis by pointing out that one of the more important new elements that has come to be realised by the Jordanian participants is "the Palestinian situation under occupation, their problems,

their hopes and aspirations." "We hope that the conclusions and feelings behind this seminar will reach the minds and hearts of decisionmakers from both sides." Dr. Abu Jaber said.

"Both leaderships should realise the depth of feelings that is coming out of this seminar. It is like we have discovered each other for the first time," Dr. Abu Jaber

"This is the first time that Jordanians and Palestinians openly and frankly discussed their perceptions without emotions," said Dr. Jad Ishaq, who heads the Palestinian delegation on environment to the multilateral negoriations.

Dr. Ishaq, who is also the director of the Palestinian Applied Research Institute said he felt the "mistrust" that had characterised the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship had started to dwin-

"Mistrust is dwindling," Dr. Ishaq told the Jordan Times in an interview. "This seminar, although we are participating on an individual basis, will set the face of a new type of relationship between us which will have a sound basis.'

"I think the social, ecological and other forces are all leading us to one thing: Jordanians and Palestinians will forge warm relations that will lead to an inevitable unity that is mutually benefi-

The warm atmosphere that permeated among the participants on the last day of the seminar however did not cloud the thinking of politicians on either side that their hopes for cooperation and unity hinges on many political factors that have to be addressed not least of which is a political will from the leaders of both sides.

(Continued on page 7)

Hutu gangs murder witnesses of Rwandan genocide

KIGALI (R) — Witnesses of genocide attacks on minority Tutsis in Rwanda are being singled out for execution by extremist Hutus in refugee camps in southwest Rwanda, a U.N. spokesman said in Kigali Sunday.

Captain Stephane Grenier said violence had increased in the camps in this area. "People have been killed with machetes and in grenade attacks." he added.

U.N. officials said the murders appeared to be the work of gangs from the former Rwandan army, which was ousted by the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) in July, and members of the Hutu militia known as the Interahamwe who were responsible for the attacks on Tutsis. ---

million Rwandans, most of them Tutsis, died in the violence that marked the last days of the former Hutu-led Rwandan government after President Juvenal Habvarimana died in a plane crash in Kigali. Many liberal Hutus

also died in the attacks.

"We have reason to believe that many of those executed in the refugee camps have been singled out because they witnessed some of the genocide attacks," Capt. Grenier said. "In other cases, the pa-

rents of Rwandans who have left the camps to return to their former home villages have been killed," Capt. Grenier said.

Extremist Hutus have source.

6 Islamic extremists killed in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Six Islamic militants were killed by

security forces in Oued Berkeche, western Algeria, the

security services said Sunday. The service said the six were

killed Friday when they were discovered by its troops

acting on a tip-off, near the western city of Ain Temouc-

hent. Five machine-pistols, a hunting rifle and three

home-made bombs were recovered during the search, the

service added. The latest killings bring to 56 the number of

armed Islamists killed by the Algerian security forces

NAIROBI (R) — Nearly 500 children separated from their

families for up to six years by Sudan's civil war have been

reunited with their families, the U.N. Children's Fund

(UNICEF) said Sunday. The children, mostly boys, are

aged between nine and 16. UNICEF, which organised the

airlift of the children from a camp at Lafon in Sudan's

eastern Equatoria province last week, said security and

health conditions there had deteriorated. "Since early

November, 22 children died there from dysentery and

malnutrition-related diseases. Another 73 received

emergency medical treatment in Lafon until they were well

enough to join the airlift," a spokesman in Nairobi said.

They had been living there since July, when they arrived

after a two-month trek to escape renewed fighting near

Nimule, on the Sudan-Uganda border. Many died during

the journey, and another 21 died soon after reaching Lafon.

UNICEF said. Wearing brightly-coloured T-shirts given to

them by UNICEF, the children were flown out in six

planeloads last week to the villages of Leer, Duar, Ayod

and Fangak in Sudan's Upper Nile Province. The villages

are under the control of the Southern Sudan Independent

Movement (SSIM), a rebel group fighting both the

Khartoum government and the Sudan People's Liberation

Indian troops complete Kismayo pullout

MOGADISHU (AFP) — The last group of some 200

Indian U.N. troops left the southern Somali port city of

Kismayo Sunday, U.N. military spokesman Major Zubair

Chattha said. He said the pull-out was carried out "professionally" without any untoward incidents reported

during the phased withdrawal of the 1,000 soldiers sta-

tioned in the city. The Indian troops have been in Kismayo

for one year. The U.N. troops, now down to around

13,000, are in the process of pulling out from his lawless

Horn of Africa country, which appears in danger of

returning to full-scale civil war. The withdrawal is due to

completed by March 31. Meanwhile sporadic crackle of

small arms fire continued Sunday in Mogadishu, the Somali

capital, where inter-cian fighting has killed some 28 people.

2 Palestinian children freeze to death

Army (SPLA), a rival guerrilla organisation.

during December, according to an unofficial toll.

500 children airlifted to Sudan

Between 500,000 and one threatened violence against any one accepting the invitation of the new Rwandan government to return to their

former homes.

Aid workers say that few of those who are being forced out of camps being closed down are returning to their former homes. Instead, many are moving into nearby refugee camps, while about 100 a day are crossing into neighbouring Burundi, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

"The government says that the forcible moving out of refugees is being done to increase internal security but instead it looks as through they will increase insecurity," said the U.N.

Last month troops of the new government closed down Kaduha Camp and last week they went to another camp at Rukhondo, addressed the refugees there, and tore the plastic sheeting off some tents. The following day 10,000 people were on the move, the aid worker said.

negotiations between Syria

After a visit to the region

last week by U.S. Secretary

of State Warren Christopher,

Syria said it would agree to

contacts with Israel in

Washington, a move that

could set the stage for the

resumption of full-scale nego-

Syria dominates Lebanon

and any movement on Syrian

negotiations with Israel

affects the Lebanese posi-

Iran, opposes the Middle

East peace effort.

Hizbollah, like its backer

An Israeli cabinet minister

"Everyone knows that the

blamed Syria for the de-

teriorating situation in South

one who's really controlling

the existing situation in Leba-

non is the Syrians," Agricul-

ture Minister Yaakov Tsur

said after a cabinet meeting

About 1,200 Israeli sol-

diers and 2,500 SLA men

garrison the 440-square-mile

tiations.

Lebanon.

in Jerusalem.

and Israel was easing up.

But the end of this week." new Rwandan government wants Rukhondo and Cyanika camps, with a total population of 75,000, to close

The Rwanda government has given 85,000 refugees until the end of December to move voluntarily out of the Kibeho camp, the main camp in the former security zone established by French troops.

Prize is nice but peace is still a dream for Arabs and Jews

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli and Palestinian commentators appeared unanimous Sunday in concluding that the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to their leaders may be too much of a good thing too soon with so much peace vet to be made.

"In a play on words on the worn journalistic expression 'too little, too late,' there was last night in Oslo' too much and too soon," wrote columnist Yoel Marcus in Israel's Haaretz. The best-selling Palestinian

newspaper Al Quds commented that there was a discrepancy between the slogans of historic reconciliation and peacemaking and the reality of struggle and differences in

carrying out the peace deal. "This discrepancy is pushing the Palestinian side to wonder about the credibility of giving the Nobel Prize to the Israeli side," Al Quds, published in Arab East Jeru-

Israel handed over Jericho in the West Bank and most of the Gaza Strip to the Palestinians in May under a peace deal scaled with a handshake

15 months ago. But problems

remain implementing the rest

of their accord. "It's good Israel appears in the world media in a context of peace. It's only a pity all of this is accompanied by a feeling of uncertainty, of fears and of apprehension, because this is a limited peace,

Israel's daily Maariy wrote in

an editorial. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, living in Gaza, wants early elections there and in all of the West Bank but must first negotiate details for redeploying Israeli troops in still-occupied parts of the West Bank away from

Palestinian towns. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, his Israeli co-

recipients of the prize Saturday, are reluctant to budge in light of Muslim militant attacks that have killed scores of Israelis.

Israelis were split on whether Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres should even have shown up for the ceremony in Norway. In a survey of 501 people for Israel's Channel 2 Television, 54 per cent said yes and 46 per cent no. Israeli commentators were

impressed by a rare flow of compliments between Peres and Rabin, longtime political rivals both in their early 70s. and credited the 65-year-old Arafat with giving the speech that stole the show.

They hailed it as Arafat's "most conciliatory" speech since peacemaking began, saying that for the first time he spoke with some understanding of the holocaust in which six million Jews were systematically killed by the Nazis during World War II.

Palestinian rights group says '94 a year of grave concern

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AFP) — The launch of Palestinian autonomy has failed to bring a marked improvement in human rights in the occupied territories, a leading Palestinian rights group reported Sunday.

"The past year has seen major political changes with the redeployment of the Israeli Defence Forces in the Gaza Strip and Jericho area," noted Al Haq, the Ramallahbased affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists.

"Despite these developments, the human rights situation remains a subject of

grave concern," it said, "The overall pattern of human rights abuses remain the same." Al Haq gave a breakdown of the abuses:

— Israeli bullets killed 148 Palestinians, Palestinian authorities killed 15 more. — Settler attacks on Palestinians, including Hebron massacre of 29 Muslims

last February. — Torture and illtreatment of prisoners still systematic - 507 Palestinians de-

still held. - Palestinian homes con-

tained without trial for various periods, 189 of them

tinue to be demolished — 70 Palestinian towns and villages put under curfew for varying lengths of time, with

Hebron the worst affected. — Israelis shut 29 Palestinian schools for varying periods, including three since the August handover of responsibility for education on the West Bank.

However, the group say "a new and encouraging trend from within Palestinian socie-

"There is widening concern that respect for democracy and human rights be entrenched within the

Palestinian community." Arafats choose baby names

Asked whether she would

CAIRO (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat's new baby will be called Ammar if it is a boy and Zahwa if it is a girl, his pregnant wife Suha told an Egyptian newspaper Sunday.

The 65-year-old veteran Palestinian leader is "very happy" about the couple's first child. Suha told Al Shark Al Awsat newspaper by telephone from Oslo where Arafat received the Nobel Peace Prize on Saturday.

"The child will treated like the 38 children adopted by President Arafat," added Mrs. Arafat, 31, The couple chose Ammar

for a boy as Arafat's nom-deguerre is Abu Ammar, or father of Ammar. It is a reference to the first Islamic martyr whose full

name was Ammar Ben Yas-"If it is a girl we will call her Zahwa (splendour), the name of Yasser's mother.

added Mrs. Arafat, who is

one month pregnant

"there is no difference, everything God gives is good." She had earlier told Israeli radio that the baby would be a "child of peace." Mrs. Arafat told the news-

paper she was definitely Arafat's first wife, after Israeli press reports that the PLO chairman had been married before. "This information is false

and is aimed at tarnishing Abu Ammar's reputation. she said. Suha married Mr. Arafat

in secret July 17, 1990, but the union was only disclosed in 1992. Before their marriage, she worked as his economic advisor.

Until then, Mr. Arafat had always declared that Palestine was his only love.

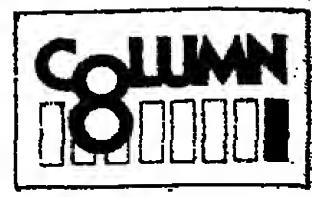
However as the happy news broke, so did an article in the Haaretz newspaper saving Mr. Arafat was married to Nejla Yassin, also known as Um Nasser

Ms. Yassin told Haaretz prefer a boy or a girl, the she met Mr. Arafat back in Palestinian first lady said 1966 and divorced her husband a year later to live with the militant leader until 1985. She ran his office between 1972 and 1985 before taking over the Palestinian women's organisation.

> Suha paid tribute to Ms. Yassin who she described as "a respectable woman who stayed by Abu Ammar's side through the most difficult times and played her role to perfection.

> She also described her feelings on watching her husband receive the Nobel Peace Prize, which he shared with his former Israeli foes, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

"It was an extraordinary and terrific feeling, and brought back memories from the first, difficult days of the revolution right up the award to President Arafat of the most honourable peace orize."



Mrs. Clinton urges summit wives to help children

MIAMI (R) - U.S. first lady -Hillary Rodham Clinton urged all the wives of North and South American leaders to "raise our voices" on behalf of children trapped by hunger, poverty and homelessness. Mrs. Clinton hosted a symposium on Children in the Americas for the wives of the leaders of the 34 nations attending the Summit. of the Americas which concludes on Sunday. "When it was comes to children's issues, -women have a special calling," Mr. Clinton said in an address to the group. "And that's why we have a duty to raise our voices for the voiceless — our children, the voungest and most vulnerable among us." Mrs. Clin-... ton, who has generated controversy during the first two years of her husband's presidency tor her high-profile stand on health care and other issues, urged the wives of hemispheric leaders to publicly champion the needs of children. "Each of us must find a venue appropriate to our own situation as first lady. or government representative," she said, "But whatever role we choose represents a rare opportunity to make a difference in the lives of tens of millions of children — and in the future of all the Amer-

Harrods ejects wheelchair protesters

LONDON (R) - Security - 5 staff at Harrods forcibly evicted disabled people protesting against the department store's policy of banning some kinds of wheelchair. The 20 protesters, all of them in wheelchairs, rolled into the huge store at the height of Christmas shopping,;"We want to see the manager," they shouted, struggling as security personnel pushed and carried them out. "We came to Harrods because they have a policy which discriminates against disabled people," said one of the protesters, Liz Carr, 22. "We feel very strongly about. the world's most famous store treating disabled people in this way." A spokesman for Harrods said all but the largest mechanised wheelchairs were allowed into the store, which is filled with narrow, meandering aisles. "We do allow all wheelchair users into the store and are happy to receive them, other than the very large electric wheelchairs, which are similar to golf trolleys," he said.

Prisoner wants tougher sentence

MELBOURNE (R) - An Australian prisoner has appealed for a tougher jail sentence after landing back behind bars only seven hours after being freed from a 13year term for rape, according to a newspaper report Sunday. Melbourne prisoner Eric Geoffrey Cahill threw a brick through the window of the Office of Corrections in South Melbourne only seven hours after being released last Monday to get himself back in jail, the Sunday Age of Melbourne said. When told the incident would land him only one month in jail, Mr. Cahill said that wasn't good enough and appealed in court to have the term extended for two years. He said he is simply not ready to re-enter society, the Age said, Mr. Cahilt, 41, sentenced in 1981 for a series of rapes and other sex crimes, refused to leave prison grounds when freed last Monday.

Bette Davis' Rolls Royce fetches \$500,000

NEW YORK (AP) -- A 1956 Rolls Royce that once belonged to Bette Davis was auctioned to an anonymous hidder for \$500,000. The U.S. movie star's beige-andburgundy silver cloud was later owned by Mike Todd during his marriage in the late 1950s to Elizabeth Taylor, after that, the car was bought by actress Diana Rigg. Davis' car was one of 46 sold at Sotheby's from the private collection of Michael Schudroff, who is closing his Manhatan Rolls Royce deal-



SALLUM, Egypt (AFP) — Two Palestinian children have frozen to death on the Egyptian-Libyan border after being trapped there with their families since the beginning of December, border guards here said Sunday. The two boys. aged 10 and 12, died on Saturday because of the "difficult weather conditions," they said without identifying the children. Thirty Palestinian families have been sleeping in the open-air on the border after being expelled from Libya to Egypt, which refuses to let them enter. "Talks are under way between Egypt and Libya to try to settle this affair," a security official said. Egyptian authorities have demanded that the families obtain confirmation from Israel that they will be allowed to enter the Palestinian scif-ruic areas before allowing them to cross border, according to an officer at the border post of Sallum in northwestern Egypt. "The authorities want to make sure that these Palestinians

are not planning to settle permanently in Egypt and will go

straight to the Palestinian territories across Egyptian

territory," he said. Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian

Authority have discussed ways of guaranteeing their

NEWS IN BRIEF

passage, he added. Libyan police have said that most of the

Palestinians had Egyptian travel documents and had

entered Libya recently from Egypt. Militant shot dead in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian police shot dead an Islamic militant in a gunbattle as they tried to arrest him in the southern town of Assiut Sunday, the interior ministry said. Mohammad Sherif Al Wazzan, a student in the town of Manfalut, was "wanted for his involvement in several terrorist attacks," the ministry said. Police "forced the door of his home where he was hiding in the town of Assiut," 380 kilometres (235 miles) south of Cairo, it said. "He opened fire on the policemen who retaliated, killing him on the spot. They discovered a pistol near the body." The shooting raises to 523 the number of people killed since Muslim militants launched a campaign in March 1992 to overturn the secular government of President Hosni Mubarak. Interior Minister Hasan Al Alfi told reporters Saturday that "human rights cannot be applied to protect murderers and terrorists.

Britons demand release of Vanunu

JERUSALEM (AFP) — A delegation from the British committee for the release of nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu, jailed for 18 years for espionage, has arrived in Israel to protest his continued detention. But the prison authorities refused to allow them to enter Ashkelon jail to visit Vanunu, who was kidnapped and flown back to Tel Aviv after he disclosed Israel's nuclear weapons programme to the London Sunday Times in 1986. And police confiscated the group's passports for several hours on Saturday when they tried to demonstrate outside the jail south of Tel Aviv. The delegation, including actress Suzannah York, lawyers, journalists and a vicar, hoped to meet Israeli President Ezer Weizman later Sunday, Vanunu, who is kept in solitary confinement, revealed that Israel had built about 100 nuclear bombs, despite the official government line that the Jewish state will not be the first country to introduce nuclear arms to the Middle East. The British military reviews Jane's recently said Israel has about 200 nuclear bombs.

Saddam hears report of Aziz' Russia trip

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein chaired a meeting of the country's highest ruling body, the Revolutionary Command Council, following a trip to Moscow by Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, the news agency INA said Sunday. Aziz held talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev Wednesday on the international sanctions slapped on Iraq more than four years ago. Russia helped to mediate in a recent build-up of tension in the Gulf when Iraq massed thousands of elite troops on the border with Kuwait which Baghdad invaded in August 1990 and occupied for seven months. A Russian-brokered initiative led to Iraq's formal recognition in November of its neighbour's sovereignty and borders. But even though that was a key U.N. demand for lifting the sanctions, the U.N. Security Council decided Nov. 14 to renew the embargo which has crippled the Iraqi economy. Parliamentary Speaker Saadi Mehdi Saleh also took part in the meeting, INA added.

'France offers to mediate in Algeria'

RABAT (AFP) — France has proposed acting as a mediator in the escalating conflict between the Algerian government and Islamic militants, a spokesman for the Muslim activists said here. Rabah Kebir, spokesman for Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in exile. was quoted by the weekly Maroc-Hebdo newspaper as saying he was informed of the offer at a recent meeting with an envoy of Interior Minister Charles Pasqua. Kebir said the meeting was "useful but stormy," with the envoy, named as "Jean-Charles Marchiani, insisting that "the Algerian government is sovereign" inside the country.